



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-028

Thursday

11 February 1988

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-028

CONTENTS

11 February 1988

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 February Middle East and South Asia Review	1
---	---

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on Unity 'Agreement' [Paris]	3
Arab League's Maqsud on PLO Office Closure [Radio Monte Carlo]	3
PLO, Syria, Jordan React to U.S. 'Plan' [Radio Monte Carlo]	3

Palestinian Affairs

USSR Sends 'Arafat' Urgent Invitation' [KUNA]	3
'Return Ship' Will Sail on 'Set Date' [Radio Monte Carlo]	4
Jordan May Let 'Arafat Use Radio Station [Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR 10 Feb]	4
AL-SAFIR Interviews PFLP-GC's Jibril [8 Feb]	4

ARAB AFRICA

Chad

Ex-Opposition Political Movements Join UNIR	10
FAO Group To Join Government [Libreville Africa No 1]	11
MRP Denies Joining Government [AFP]	11
Red Cross Able to Visit Libyan POW's 'Freely' [AFP]	11
ICRC Accused of Libyan Bias	11

Egypt

Mubarak Addresses Security Symposium in Cairo	12
Kuwaiti Interior Minister Delivers Message [KUNA]	17
Wali Leaves for Cooperation Talks in Jordan	18
Joint Turkish Economic Committee Begins Session	18
Views Cooperation Opportunities [Ankara]	18
Bulgaria's Tanchev Arrives on Visit 10 Feb	18
Arrival Statement Cited	18
Received by Mubarak	18
Seeks To Promote Relations	19
Confers With 'Abd al-Majid'	19
Daily Criticizes Subservience to U.S. 'Aid' [AL-SHA'B 2 Feb]	19
Domestic Groups Respond to Mubarak's Initiative [AL-SHA'B 2 Feb]	20
Students Protest Over Detentions, Restrictions [AL-SHA'B 2 Feb]	21
Muslim Brotherhood Leader on Political Aims [London AL-HAWADITH 5 Feb]	22

Libya

Practice, Support of Terrorism Denied	22
Al-Qadhdhafi Praises Soviet Troop Withdrawal	23
Talks Continue With Afghan Foreign Minister [Kabul]	23
French Views of Al-Qadhdhafi Speech Attacked	23
Frolinat Statement on Chadian Merger Reported	24
'Fierce Battles' Cited in Southeast Chad	24
Armed Forces Leader Receives Lebanon's Hawi	24
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Senegalese Muslims	24

Sudan

2 Foreigners Arrested for Photographing Troops	24
Constitutional Conference Preparations Under Way	25
Southern Council Chairman Abor Resigns 10 Feb	25
Armed Forces 'Successful Raid' in Equatoria	25
'Hundreds of Rebels' in Kapoeta Killed 9 Feb	25
SPLA Reports Combat Operations, Successes	26
Ambushes on Juba-Bor Road [Radio SPLA]	26
Combat Operations 4-6 Feb [Radio SPLA]	26
Wa'th Garrison Raided [Radio SPLA]	26

Tunisia

Baccouche Interviewed on Relations With Morocco [Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA 1 Feb]	26
Baly Meets With Iraqi Air Force Delegation	28

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Norwegian Supertanker Hit Off UAE Coast 11 Feb [Radio Monte Carlo]	29
Syria Presents 7-Point Iraq-Iran Peace Plan [KUNA]	29

Kuwait

ARAB TIMES Interviews Afghanistan's Wakil [6 Feb]	29
Wakil Departs 8 Feb [ARAB TIMES 9 Feb]	30
Vietnamese Health Minister Ends 5-Day Visit	30

PDRY

Oil Exploration Protocol Signed With USSR	31
---	----

United Arab Emirates

Editorial Says Murphy Has 'Nothing to Offer' [AL-BAYAN 7 Feb]	31
---	----

Yemen Arab Republic

Soviet Minister Leaves, Visit 'Successful'	32
President Salih Receives Spanish Minister	32
Talks Held With Australian Foreign Minister	32
Meets With Prime Minister	32
Algerian Minister of Culture Departs 10 Feb	32

IRAQ

Further on Visit by Bulgaria's Tanchev	34
Meets With Ramadan	34
Delivers Message to President	34
Concludes Visit, Leaves	34
Joint Committee With Vietnam Meets in Baghdad	34
Ramadan, Vietnamese Minister Meet	34
Cooperation Agreement Signed	35
Vietnamese Delegation Departs	35
'Aziz Returns Home From SFRY Visit 10 Feb	35
Interviewed on Trip [KUNA]	35
Reportage on 'Aziz Visit to Yugoslavia [cross-reference]	35
Ramadan Notes 'Differences' With Moscow [KUNA]	36
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities	36
Communique No 3,016	36
Iranians Hit Liberian Tanker	36
Communique No 3,017	37

ISRAEL

More on Murphy's Mideast Shuttle Mission, Talks	38
Murphy Departs 10 Feb	38
Shamir Briefs Likud	38
Shamir Rejects 'Acceleration' [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 10 Feb]	38
Leaders React to Initiative [THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Feb]	38
Beilin Appeals to EC Envoys on U.S. Initiative	39
Minister Navon To Visit Poland in April [MA'ARIV 10 Feb]	40
Shamir To Visit Italy Despite Goria Resignation	40
Arabs Urge Europeans To Help End 'Occupation' [THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Feb]	40
Lack of Dialogue With Palestinians Criticized [HA'ARETZ 10 Feb]	40
Palestinian Leaders Rivaling PLO in Unrest [AL HAMISHMAR 10 Feb]	41
Rabin on Future Deportations, Settlers Violence [MA'ARIV 10 Feb]	43
Rabin Approves Qalqilyah Bypass For IDF Security [MA'ARIV 10 Feb]	43
Rabin Approves Appeals Board for Military Courts	43
'National Committees' Directing Jerusalem Unrest [HADASHOT 10 Feb]	44
Bi'r Zayt University To Close Until March [AL-SHA'B 10 Feb]	44
90 Detainees Said Held in New Hebron Prison [AL-SHA'B 10 Feb]	44
Knesset Defeats No-Confidence Motions 10 Feb	44
Poll Results Show Public Leaning Toward Right [HADASHOT 8 Feb]	44

LEBANON

Hamadah Says He Will 'Hold on to Schray' [VOL]	46
Solution to Hostage Issue 'Matter of Time' [AL-SHIRA' 8 Feb]	46
IRA Chief Claims UK Kidnapped Irishman Keenan [AL-SHIRA' 8 Feb]	46
Interior Minister on Elections, Other Issues [London AL-HAWADITH 5 Feb]	46
Soviet Envoy Refuses Comment on Murphy Tour [VOL]	48
Al-Huss Meets With Czechoslovak Ambassador [VOM]	48
9 February Unit Claims Attacks on Syrian Forces [RFL]	48
'Warplanes' Reported Over Coast, Mountain [RFL]	48
Israeli Overflights, Mock Raids Reported	48

SYRIA

Ba'th Party Supports DPRK on ROK Plane Crash	49
AL-THAWRAH Cited on Iraqi Media Campaign	49

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Rule Out Peace Until Soviet Withdrawal [Tokyo KYODO]	50
Vow To Continue Fighting [AFP]	50
Commentator Criticizes Extremists' Actions	50
Amin Meets With CSSR Finance Delegation Head	51
Keshtmand Addresses Asian Students Seminar	51
Keshtmand Visits Jowzjan Province, Meets Leaders	52
Briefs	52
Armenian Health Cooperation	52
Direct USSR Railway Links	52

Bangladesh

Reportage on Local Council Elections	52
Turn Out 'Brisk'	52
25 Killed, 500 Injured [Delhi]	53
Clashes Leave 39 Dead	53
'At Least 100' Killed [Delhi]	53

India

Gandhi Warns Pakistan on Siachen Issue	54
Lok Dal Chief on Gandhi's Foreign Policy [PATRIOT 28 Jan]	54
Gurkha Front Strike Protests 'Police Atrocities'	55
'Activists' Sabotage Transformer	55
CPI To Reestablish Ties With Chinese CP [PATRIOT 28 Jan]	55

Iran

Commentary on Gorbachev's Afghanistan Speech	56
Further on Events of Revolution's Anniversary	57
GDR Envoy Congratulates Khamene'i	57
Montazeri Meets Martyrs' Families	57
IRNA Details Anniversary Events	58
Repaired Helicopters Flown In	58
Nationwide Rallies Held	59
Majlis Speaker Addresses Women's Conference	59
More on Majlis Speaker's Address	60
Editorial on Palestinian 'Islamic Revolt' [KEYHAN 30 Jan]	60
First Defense Industries-Made Plane Tested	61
Musavi Launches IRGC-Made Landing Craft	62
Landing Craft Capabilities Noted	62
Musavi Meets Pilots Who Downed Iraqi Jets	62
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue	62
Air Force Bombs Al-'Amarah Region	62
Communique No 3,108	62
Tudeh Dissidents Form New Communist Party [Paris LE MONDE 9 Feb]	63
Fada'iyan-e Khalq on Revolution's Anniversary [Radio of the Iranian Toilers]	63

Pakistan

USSR's Vorontsov Continues Visit, Meets Leaders	64
Conveys Gorbachev Message	64
Restates Soviet Position, Departs	65
UAE President Holds Talks With Ziaul Haq [Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 9 Feb]	65
Meets With Prime Minister [WAKH]	65
Correspondent Visits Siachen Glacier [THE MUSLIM 28 Jan]	65
Second Installment [THE MUSLIM 30 Jan]	68

Sri Lanka

WEEKEND Cites Indian Gunboat Diplomacy	69
--	----

11 February Middle East and South Asia Review

LD111408 [Editorial Report]

Israeli, Arab Response to U.S. Policy

Reviewing Israeli reaction to the U.S. peace initiative, THE JERUSALEM POST cited sources close to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir who stressed that while Shamir did not approve the timetable presented by the Americans, he is definitely interested in further U.S. efforts. Nevertheless, a senior Labor Party minister contended that Shamir has "torpedoed" two of the three pillars of the U.S. plan—the international "opening" and the talks on final arrangements. Shamir told Likud ministers earlier that Israel will never agree to any international "gathering" or "event," and he reaffirmed that Israel must also insist on the full autonomy period specified in the Camp David Accords, according to Jerusalem radio.

In Egypt, Cairo radio broadcast a speech by President Husni Mubarak in which he warned against attempting to revive the Camp David autonomy formula and stressed the need to "develop" the U.S. proposals "in another way." Meanwhile, the PLO issued a statement in Tunis confirming that it rejects the latest U.S. initiative because the U.S. proposals do not provide for establishing an independent Palestinian state, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Regarding the U.S. decision to close the PLO's UN office in New York, the radio broadcast remarks by Arab League official Clovis Maqsd warning that this will "adversely affect" Arab-U.S. relations and will undermine the credibility of U.S. proposals on the Middle East crisis. Arab states will respond by considering the possibility of holding the UN General Assembly in a place other than New York, he added.

In other PLO developments, KUNA cited a UAE press report that the USSR has invited PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to visit Moscow this month to discuss Mideast peace moves. On the PLO's plan to sail a ship containing Palestinian deportees to Israel, a PLO spokesman cited by AFP attributed the delay in beginning the voyage to Israel's "secret war," claiming that the Israelis have threatened the captains of vessels which the PLO sought to charter. Nevertheless, he stressed that the voyage will go ahead.

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The Soviet Union and Afghanistan support the signing of the Geneva accords "in the nearest future," and any departure from the Geneva process would yield "unpredictable" consequences, TASS stated 11 February. According to TASS, the Soviet Union found the Pakistani position of linking the signing of the accords to the establishment of a new Afghan government "hard to understand."

The warning followed a meeting between Pakistani President Ziaul Haq and visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, who conveyed an "important" message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev concerning the Afghanistan situation, according to Islamabad radio. While noting that the two sides identified "significant common ground" for a solution to the problem, the radio cited diplomatic sources in Islamabad as indicating that difficulties persist.

In another development, a communique released by the seven-party resistance alliance in reaction to recent developments called on the USSR to withdraw its troops "immediately and unconditionally," according to AFP. The communique reiterated the rebels' rejection of any negotiations with the Kabul regime and declared that their transitional government would "soon" be set up.

Iran-Iraq War

Combat Operations—A Norwegian supertanker was attacked and set ablaze off the UAE coast 11 February, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The radio noted that the attack occurred in an area where Iranian speedboats are "usually operating." Tehran radio reported the attack, saying it was carried out by "speedboats." Voice of the Masses radio earlier reported a 10 February Iranian speedboat attack on a Liberian tanker. An Iraqi communique carried by the same station reported a series of 11 February air strikes on an electronics complex near Shiraz and on a fuel storage installation and a fuel processing plant near Emam Hasan.

Meanwhile, an Iranian spokesman disclosed that the first Iranian-made warplane has been successfully tested and will "shortly" enter service.

Syrian Plan—An 11 February Kuwaiti press report cited by KUNA revealed that Syria presented a seven-point peace plan to the Arab Gulf countries during last month's tour of the region by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. According to AL-WATAN, the plan stipulates, among other things, formation of a mediation committee and a 6-month moratorium on attacks on shipping, strategic targets, and cities.

Iran

Khomeyni Address—Tehran radio broadcast a revolution anniversary speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in which he warned that the United States only praises "subordinates" and that any "favorable" U.S. stand toward Iran would be "aimed at trampling us underfoot." Khomeyni accordingly told officials that "every time they show a favorable stance toward you, you should adopt a tougher position." In his address, delivered to a gathering of Iranian officials, foreign ambassadors, and other foreign guests, Khomeyni also

advised the Palestinians to continue their "Islamic stance" and to ignore those who offer "sympathy" that is really aimed at "deceiving" the Palestinians.

Comment on Afghanistan—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's statement on the USSR's plan to withdraw from Afghanistan is a "positive development" if it means an "unconditional withdrawal," Tehran radio asserted. However, the radio voiced concern that Gorbachev's statements may have been aimed at creating "a propaganda atmosphere and political pressure against the Afghan Muslim revolutionary people."

Jordan-USSR

Jordan's armed forces commander in chief held talks with visiting Soviet General Vladimir Mikhalkin, the commander of the Soviet ground forces' missile and artillery units, PETRA-JNA reported.

Sudan

"Hundreds" of rebels were killed in a 9 February battle with government troops near Kapoeta, SUNA reported, citing an Armed Forces General Command statement published in SAWT AL-UMMAH. According to the statement, the Armed Forces are in "full control" of the area neighboring Kapoeta and will "soon" declare the liberation of the town.

Maghreb Affairs

Neither Libyan nor Algerian media have been observed to confirm a Paris radio report that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi has stated that Libya and Algeria have agreed on the formation of a unitary state.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on Unity 'Agreement' *LD101525 Paris International Service in French* 1245 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] There is an agreement for the union between Algeria and Libya, a union which takes the shape of a unitary state. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi made this statement during an interview with AFP. The head of the Libyan state also says in this interview that relations between Libya and Tunisia are very good.

Arab League's Maqsd on PLO Office Closure *JN110837 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic* 0600 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from New York]

[Text] Edwin Meese, the U.S. attorney general, has signed a decision to close down the PLO UN office in New York. A U.S. Justice Department official said that an official statement will be announced Monday and that Meese signed it before leaving for Spain. The U.S. State Department gave the impression that it had tried to avoid a legal confrontation with the United Nations but said that, eventually, the decision is the prerogative of the Justice Department.

During the period of waiting and apprehension preceding the announcement, the head of the Arab League office in Washington contacted the U.S. State Department, the Justice Department, and the UN legal adviser, and the nine-member nonaligned committee held an urgent meeting in New York.

Before U.S. television cameras, Dr Clovis Maqsd said that the Arab and Islamic states will request that the next UN General Assembly session be held in Geneva if the United States succeeds in denying the PLO representation in the United States.

[Begin Maqsd recording] If this decision is made, it will have serious consequences and will adversely affect overall Arab-American relations. It will undermine the credibility of U.S. proposals on the Middle East crisis and prove that they are the result of a U.S. bias in favor of Israeli aims in the region. This decision is a violation of the agreement between the host country and the United Nations. It will prompt us to consider the possibility of holding the UN General Assembly in a place other than New York. The dignity of the United Nations cannot be diminished by expelling the PLO representative. Therefore, we have to look for another venue for the next session of the UN General Assembly. [end recording]

PLO, Syria, Jordan React to U.S. 'Plan' *JN110659 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic* 0600 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The United States continues to be very discrete concerning a reported settlement plan which Richard Murphy presented during his Middle East tour. [passage omitted]

Initial Arab reactions do not give the impression that the U.S. plan or ideas were received with enthusiasm. In Tunis, the PLO rejected the plan because it does not provide for establishing an independent Palestinian state.

During Murphy's visit to Damascus late last week, Syrian sources said that the U.S. envoy had carried with him the old-new ideas; namely, the worn-out autonomy plan.

The Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, who is accompanying King Husayn during his official visit to Vienna, received the news of the U.S. plan with reservation but did not denounce it. He said: We must wait to learn the purport of these proposals. So far, the Americans have presented a concept to us and details of this concept should be discussed. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

USSR Sends 'Arafat 'Urgent Invitation' *LD111004 Kuwait KUNA in English 0925 GMT* 11 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 11 (KUNA)—The Soviet Union has sent an urgent invitation to the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to visit Moscow and discuss the forthcoming political initiative on settling the Middle East crisis in light of popular Palestinian uprising.

The sources added that 'Arafat's visit to Moscow will take place before the end of this month.

Daily AL-ITTIHAD Thursday quoted well-informed sources in Moscow as saying that the Soviet Union is trying to convince the U.N. Security Council to amend Resolution 242 by adding "the Palestinians' right to self-determination."

However, in the case of the U.S. vetoing of the amendment the issue will be transferred to the General Assembly seeking the majority endorsement, the newspaper said.

The sources added that the Soviet Union is trying to get the U.N. to call for the international peace conference based on Resolution 242, and other resolutions on the Palestinian cause.

'Return Ship' Will Sail on 'Set Date'

*JN101803 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1715 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for information affairs, has stated in Athens that the return ship that will sail for Haifa with hundreds of Palestinian deportees, Arab and international figures, and members of the press, will sail on the set date, that is on Wednesday. Abu Sharif said: However, we did not specify the hour for security reasons.

Abu Sharif said: The ship will sail, but there is a covert and overt war to prevent it from its voyage. He said that Israeli Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres have demonstrated that the Israeli Government has lost its calm in front of the peace travelers.

It is worth mentioning that U.S. congressmen, Jewish figures from the United States and Israel, French men of religion, and parliamentarians will participate in the voyage.

In reply to a question on whether the Greek Government has been subjected to diplomatic pressures, Bassam Abu Sharif said: No problem exists between Greece and the PLO.

Jordan May Let 'Arafat Use Radio Station

*TA101542 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
10 Feb 88 p 1*

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Jordan may put at 'Arafat's disposal a radio station which would broadcast to the territories. Our correspondent has learned that the PLO and Jordan are currently holding contacts to this effect, and the issue may be discussed during 'Arafat's upcoming visit to Amman, which is currently being prepared.

The need to put a radio station at 'Arafat's disposal stems from the character of the "Al-Quds" station broadcasting from Syria. Although this station has not yet come out against 'Arafat, it has been eroding his power by voicing opposition to the international conference advocated by 'Arafat.

AL-SAFIR Interviews PFLP-GC's Jibril

NC091021 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 8 Feb 88 p 5

[Text] The uprising in the occupied territories is continuing. The whole world is following it with admiration. Meanwhile, several questions are being asked about the political effects of this uprising, not only for the Palestinian people but for the entire Arab nation.

In an attempt to find answers to these questions and broaden the discussion, AL-SAFIR has submitted several questions to Palestinian leaders inside and outside

the occupied territories in affirmation of the basic link between the Palestinian people, land, and cause, and their framework of struggle, namely the PLO.

In previous issues, we published the answers of Dr George Habash, PFLP Secretary General; Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), prominent Fatah leader; Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces; and Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general.

In this issue we publish the answers of PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril, who granted our correspondent Muna Sukkariyah an interview in Damascus. The interview included a direct discussion of various Palestinian issues.

The common questions were:

1) Where does the uprising in the occupied territories fit in on the map of Palestinian national struggle? Is it merely a protest, or does it conceive new strategic possibilities in the struggle for liberation? What are the impacts of this uprising on a) Israeli plans regarding the future of Palestine; and b) the Israeli colonization of the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

2) What is the impact of the occupation generation—a whole Palestinian generation born under Israeli occupation? It is now the leader and fuel of the uprising. How do you view this generation? How is it different from the generation that started the resistance? Does this generation present serious questions that require development of militant work?

3) It is clear that the 10-point program calls for a national authority, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The question is: What state do you want? What effect would the establishment of a Palestinian state have on Palestinian struggle and on Israel's existence and character?

4) The uprising has raised a new banner: the national independence of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a part of Palestine. This replaces the old banner: the liberation of Palestine. Do these two calls complement or contradict each other?

5) The PLO was born under the patronage of the Arab League. It was then seized by the resistance after the 1967 defeat, when the resistance was leading the struggle from outside the occupied territories.

Can the PLO struggle—the exterior command—lead an uprising in the interior? Will this new pattern of struggle bring about a strategic change in the PLO?

6) After the outbreak and expansion of the uprising, it was noted that some Palestinian parties began raising the idea of a government-in-exile. What is the meaning of a

government-in-exile? What is the purpose of past and present talk about such a government? Is it a question of timing or inability to make such a decision?

7) Some believe that one of the positive political results of the uprising is recovery from the political complex arising from Beirut. Priority now is given to the interior, not the exterior, not even Beirut.

Do you believe this transformation has really occurred? What is the effect of this transformation on the future of Lebanon and the future of the Lebanese-Palestinian national struggle?

In response to the first question Jibril said:

The blessed uprising of our Arab Palestinian people in the occupied territories undoubtedly marks a new stage in our national struggle. It may be interpreted in a number of ways. Any party in the Palestinian, Arab or international arena can analyze it according to his own orientation. In other words, he can choose the interpretation he likes.

An accurate analysis of the dimensions of this uprising must be governed by scientific logic. A day-to-day analysis of the uprising can be derived from the slogans which have been and still are being raised. A glance at the political slogans used since the uprising began shows us that they are in harmony. There is no fundamental contradiction between these slogans because they all emphasize Palestine and the rejection of defeatist solutions. The masses of our Arab nation and public opinion saw the slogan "Palestine is Arab. No to defeatist solutions." Palestinian flags were the only ones to be seen anywhere and slogans honoring the martyrs were ubiquitous.

During most of the demonstrations, if not all, there was not a single slogan advocating the type of settlement currently proposed by certain Arab, Palestinian, or international circles. There was no slogan calling for swift agreement to go to the negotiating table at an international conference. I dare anyone to prove that he found such a slogan. Yasir 'Arafat's photos have not been seen during the uprising, although we know that 'Arafat and members of his entourage sent money so that pictures of him could be displayed. Sadly enough, even the PLO was not referred to in the slogans. Personally, I believe that those young people who are taking part in the uprising look upon the PLO as an achievement brought about by blood, sweat, and tears. They feel that for the time being the PLO is not in good hands. They fear that if they declare unconditional allegiance to this organization, its leaders may use the uprising to serve the defeatist solutions proposed in the region.

If we take a closer look at the unified force leading the uprising, we will find it embraces young people of both sexes, who cannot be bought or sold. Those young people who were born under the occupation reject this occupation and reject normalization or coexistence with the

Zionist entity. They are answering the voices inside and outside the territories that are calling for normalization with the Zionist entity. If we want to study this uprising, we have to examine all these clear phenomena.

[Sukkariyah] From what you say it seems that there is an attempt to deny that the PLO abroad has any role in the uprising in the occupied territory.

[Jibril] I do not quite mean that, because our people know that the PLO is not the possession of certain individuals. It is the legacy of our people's struggle within and outside our occupied homeland. However, we have not seen one single sign that the uprising supports the PLO leaders.

[Sukkariyah] You mean that you distinguish between the PLO and its leaders?

[Jibril] Yes. The people involved in the uprising view the PLO as a national framework. They also want to express their dissatisfaction with the PLO leaders which have compromised in the past few years and are bargaining now over the martyr's blood. They cannot forget all the concessions that the PLO leaders offered, ending up with the Amman agreement. Our people will uphold the PLO but they are afraid that their support for the PLO will be taken for support for those who control the PLO. The people taking part in the uprising have met with reporters and news agencies. We note that they rarely spoke of the PLO leaders because they no longer trust them, thanks to their inclination to bargain and hesitate. This inclination has made the struggle a laboratory for concessions, now to the Zionists, now to King Husayn, Mubarak, Western Europe, or even the United States. These youths were not born when the West Bank was under King Husayn's custodianship and the Gaza Strip was under the control of Egypt. They were born during the occupation and, therefore, they totally reject any formula that smacks of a return to rule by the Jordanian regime.

[Sukkariyah] In that case, do you expect that new leaders will emerge from within the uprising in the occupied territory, leaders who are politically opposed to the PLO leaders' course?

[Jibril] I hope so. This uprising, which has been going on for 60 days, cannot continue without youthful leaders to steer it. Anyone denying the existence of such leaders is ridiculing our people, just as they scoffed at the PLO charter and flouted all charters and all the values of the struggle. Yes, there are youthful leaders who understand each other in the occupied Arab territory and are leading the uprising. They do not take instructions from anyone outside these people who are under occupation. These people have dealt a blow to the PLO leaders more than once. They dealt a blow to 'Arafat after he had approved the Cairo Declaration; that is, when he met with Mubarak and declared during the meeting that the armed struggle outside the occupied land and in the territory occupied in 1948 would cease. He also called for an end to armed struggle against any civilian and military Zionist targets in the territory occupied in 1967. Only a few

hours after 'Arafat read the Cairo Declaration, military operations took place in 'Afula, Haifa, and Jaffa, and were followed by other operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. That was a heavy blow. Yasir 'Arafat tried through the media to delude Arab and international circles into believing that he holds the key to the armed struggle within the occupied homeland and that if he asks the Palestinians to stop they will listen. However, scarcely a few hours had passed before 'Arafat received his answer. 'Arafat and his aides maintain that this uprising came in the wake of the people's joy over national unity attained at the Algiers meeting. Why should he disdain this giant people? The declaration of national unity in Algiers was made some 8 months ago. Why did the uprising not take place right after that achievement? No one moved in the occupied land because they knew that what had taken place in Algiers was not based on sound foundations. When 'Arafat concluded the Amman agreement with King Husayn, graffiti covered the walls throughout the occupied land—in Gaza, the West Bank, and in Galilee—declaring: Down with King Husayn and 'Arafat. The Israeli authorities used to force pedestrians to erase these slogans. Trying to delude others into believing that these leaders sitting in Tunis are leading the uprising is tantamount to downgrading our people and kinfolk in the occupied land.

[Sukkariyah] We want further clarifications about the leaderships inside the occupied territory of which you have spoken: Who are they? What are their connections with the various Palestinian groups? What is the PFLP-GC's role in events there, and what is the role of the religious tide which is being noted in this uprising?

[Jibril] The trends which lead the uprising within the occupied territory are not new, and those involved are not new. They constitute groups that might include elements and leaders who have rebelled against organizations which propose capitulationist settlement programs. In other words, we might find elements from all groups taking part in this uprising. However, they do not go along with the leadership outside the occupied territory. This is nothing new in the history of our people. There have been many revolutions. If we take the Algerian revolution as an example, we find that after the FLN's second conference the leadership abroad adopted one stand, represented by Yusuf Ben Kheddah, and the rebels in the Oran Mountains inside Algeria took another stand, which prompted them to convene a unification meeting they called the 'Al-Sammam' conference. They quarrelled at this conference, and many were executed. The leaders at home rejected the program of the Algerian Government under Ben Kheddah, which was headquartered in Tripoli, Libya. The leaderships involved in the current uprising might have associations with Fatah, the PFLP, or the DFLP. All these organizations have their cadres and elements, but they are not under any orders in the traditional military sense. These leaderships have rebelled against the proposals and conduct of the leadership outside the territory. These leaderships have eliminated the barriers among themselves. What you see now are leaderships formed of elements who have mutinied

against their groups and revolutionaries who oppose any political action abroad by the PLO. It would be illogical for them to die inside the occupied territory so they can "carry" Yasir 'Arafat on their shoulders to an international conference, which would result in the recognition of the Israeli enemy and the normalization of relations with it, as was the case with Egypt in "Camp David."

The present leaderships advocate that the people say no to peace or negotiations with, or recognition of, the Israeli enemy. They consider their goal at this stage to be the end of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, without any conditions or restrictions. But what is being proposed for discussion at the international conference, which 'Arafat and those in his circle seek enthusiastically, is the historical consolidation of the Zionist entity on the land of Palestine and reciprocal recognition.

[Sukkariyah] What is your role in this uprising?

[Jibril] We cannot claim or say that we lead this uprising because of the geographic distance separating us and other factions from the people in the occupied territories. Communication between us is conducted through international mass media and means of communications. Yet we in the PFLP-GC have not changed the political principles for which we have been working. We may understand certain developments in our region, but we have not changed our stances. Our solid and clear-cut political stand is well-known to the masses of our people. We believe that the slogans raised by those taking part in the uprising are identical to ours. We believe that we have made a contribution, even if only modestly, after the setback at the Amman summit. We undertook the difficult task of reshuffling the cards through escalating armed struggle. In 1 week there were two noteworthy military operations: one north of Palestine and the other in Rafah, south of Palestine. We wanted to say to our people that armed struggle, not international conferences, or running after Husni Mubarak, King Husayn, or the United States, is the only road to liberation. We live in the age of power, and only the strong are respected in this world. Those operations were a factor which prompted the uprising. In their interpretation of the causes underlying the uprising, all political analysts, even inside the Zionist entity, note the military operations carried out by the Popular Front, in addition to the Galilee operation in which an exchange of prisoners was conducted. We compelled the Israeli enemy to allow 600 strugglers released from prison to stay in the occupied territories. Those prisoners are symbols for every village, district, and town. On the other hand, when Yasir 'Arafat concluded a transaction for the exchange of prisoners, he failed to force Israel to allow a single prisoner to stay in Palestine. These strugglers who left prisons played a motivating role among youths and became examples. Then came our determination to escalate armed struggle. Those young people saw how a few of us stood up to a whole Israeli camp and turned it into a camp of cowards. The young people began to feel that the Israeli soldier was not a "superman" and that it was possible to face him. It was not a coincidence that the uprising was born with the heroic Qibyah operation and the Rafah operation,

which represented a protest against the current normalization between Egypt and the Zionist entity. Those two operations triggered the uprising. Demonstrators in the occupied territories shout at enemy soldiers: "Six to one in Qiryat Shemona." Though Israeli casualties in Qibyah were enormous, the six who were killed were officers and NCO's. Where then are the dead soldiers?

We believe we are making a serious contribution to this uprising. In consolidating our principled stands in the face of the previous defeatist trend within the PLO, we made another contribution which convinced our people in the occupied territories that there were factions abroad which did not approve of the PLO's political orientation or ethical behavior. I do not think that the masses of our people, who are heroically facing up to Zionist-American repressive machines, would accept taking orders from an outside leadership notorious for its immoral political conduct. Would this young man, who would lose his life in Jabalya, Al-Am'ari or Jalazon camps, sacrifice his life for this leader who had climbed to the top thanks to Arab reactionist money and who sends his children to the most famous British and U.S. schools? Is this girl willing to lose her life for the sake of a leader who sends his wife to Europe and America in summer and winter? Who does not know of this immoral behavior? I do not wish to name names, but we have figures which our people know exactly. Those who take part in the uprising inside the territories do not do so upon orders from a defeatist leadership on the outside. I used to think that the leadership would reconsider its political and moral behavior after the uprising. Ten days after the uprising began I was surprised by a statement by Yasir 'Arafat supporting the establishment of a confederated state between the Palestinians and the Zionist entity.

[Sukkariyah] What about the role of religious forces in the uprising?

[Jibril] Undoubtedly, under the occupation the religious forces are active and are playing a heroic and honorable role. The masses of our people have become tired of past precepts. They are fed up with people who claim to be Marxists but who keep quiet about the emigration of tens of thousands of Jews from the Soviet Union and do not open their mouths to say: Don't let these Jews come to our homeland.

There has been a real reaction within our people and nation. Our people have lost faith in the pan-Arab slogans and in the progressive and leftist slogans which have only brought disaster and destruction. There is an Islamic religious trend which is playing an important role. We must not ignore this trend. If we do, we will merely be burying our heads in the sand.

However, this Islamic religious trend is not like other fanatic movements that do not take people with different views into account. This trend moves, looks left and right, and is ready to cooperate with other factions. We have contacts with these groups and their leaders. They are strugglers who resent the course taken by the PLO leaders.

[Sukkariyah] What will be your stand if the slogan of this uprising becomes Islamic?

[Jibril] As I have said, this religious trend is not like other fanatic, strict movements that we see in our Arab homeland. It is responsible. Its slogans are "Palestine is Arab," and "No to surrender." They feel that because we have forgotten our relationship with God, there has been a loss of direction. They feel serene in their return to God. We in the PFLP-GC support anyone who agrees with us on the need to continue the armed struggle and fight the Zionist entity relentlessly.

[Sukkariyah] In your view, what are the results of this uprising so far?

[Jibril] This uprising has played big and important roles, which are difficult to sum up. It is a slap in the face for those [Arab leaders] who met in Amman—those who wanted to downgrade the struggle between us and the Zionist entity into a fourth-rate conflict, regrettably within the hearing and in full view of the PLO leaders.

This uprising has succeeded in solving the problem of the rivers of blood that flowed in Lebanon between the Palestinian camps and the Amal Movement. While all efforts failed to stop this disaster on the land of Lebanon, this uprising came to end it and to put the Palestinians and Lebanese in the same trench. This will have a great effect on escalating the armed struggle in and from southern Lebanon. Everyone will now devote himself to confronting the Zionist enemy. This uprising has awakened the Arab conscience from the ocean to the Gulf. It has rekindled the Arab realization that it is possible to defeat the Zionist entity after the Arab regimes and the PLO leaders closed the door on the armed struggle. This reawakening of the Arab conscience was manifested by the demonstrations which have taken place and through the writings of novelists and journalists. This uprising has scared those Arabs and Palestinians who were ready to make concessions. They are now wearing coats of a very different color and are speaking a different language from the one they spoke before the uprising. This uprising has stirred the conscience of the world.

[Sukkariyah] The world's conscience has been moved, as is apparent in several political indicators at the Security Council, renewal of the Soviet initiative for convening an international conference, and the U.S. stand at the Security Council. What is your interpretation of these indicators, and where will they lead?

[Jibril] The uprising has moved the world's conscience. The Palestinian people's issue must remain alive and be resolved. However, the world's conscience submits to the will of imperialist governments, which have common interests with the Zionist enemy. These governments tried to show sympathy with those responsible for the uprising in the occupied territory, but they wanted at the same time to speed up the political settlements, and this is where the danger to the uprising lies.

[Sukkariyah] What are your fears concerning the uprising?

[Jibril] I spoke to some leaders in the occupied territory, including Bassam al-Shak'ah, some time ago. Al-Shak'ah told me: Defend the uprising against those outside the occupied territory. Rest assured that the uprising within the occupied territory is well-protected. When I spoke to him about Hanna Sinyurah, Sirri Nusaybah, and Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Al-Shak'ah told me: These are dwarfs who have no significance inside the occupied territory. We beg you to defend the uprising against the machinations of those outside the occupied territory. What we fear is that the Arab reactionary camp, with Palestinian leaderships in collusion, and certain international circles, might try to thwart this uprising by suggesting bribes which might deceive our people in the occupied territory. An example is the plan proposed by Husni Mubarak, which 'Arafat supported and which Mubarak took to Reagan. 'Arafat and the PLO have approved this plan, whose first article calls for halting the uprising for 6 months. Next it calls for halting the settlement [of Israelis] in the West Bank and Gaza, as if this settlement were in full swing. They try to frighten us by saying: Speed up an agreement or the land in the West Bank and Gaza will vanish. No more than 120,000 persons have been settled so far in the West Bank and Gaza, including East Jerusalem. A total of 70,000 persons have been settled in Jerusalem, and the others in Gaza and the West Bank. The Zionist entity offers large material incentives to keep them in the settlements. They want us to lay down our arms quickly and sit around the negotiating table, because they fear the future. The way I see it, the balance of power indicates that ours is a great and giant nation which will not accept what happened at Camp David and will not accept any form of recognition of the Zionist enemy. It is feared that attempts will be made outside the occupied territory to thwart this uprising by offering some bribes, as is the case in the 'Arafat-Mubarak plan which demands a halt to the uprising. Mubarak asked 'Arafat: Can you stop the uprising? 'Arafat answered: Of course we can. That response only further escalated the uprising. This is indeed a blow to this leadership [Arafat's], which has not yet recognized its true size and which believes that it can buy the nation and people with its dollars.

[Sukkariyah] What, then, must Arab progressive countries do?

[Jibril] I cannot say that there is a unified Arab progressive stand one can count on. The main bulwark for the uprising is increased awareness among our people inside and outside Palestine. We should warn them against certain dishonest leaders who consort with reactionary regimes. We should also step up armed struggle inside and outside Palestine. It was through the escalation of armed struggle that we were able to turn the table on the conferees at the Amman summit. The uprising can do that. It can turn the table.

Things are happening on Egyptian streets. There is popular anger in Egypt. Mubarak has repeatedly asked the PLO to help save his regime from the anger of the Egyptian people. I am certain that if the uprising continues for 3 months a popular revolt could take place in Egypt. I can see this happening. The uprising has also stirred the masses in the Arab Maghreb. There have been attempts to put the lid on that uprising. Tens of millions of dollars are being given to this reactionary trend, led by Yasir 'Arafat, in an attempt to buy off some of our people.

Answering the second question, Jibril said:

This generation is born of suffering. It is no longer afraid of Zionist heavy-handedness. This generation is the hope of all Palestinian revolutionaries inside and outside Palestine. I see no barriers between this generation and the revolutionaries who are living abroad and who have rebelled against the right-wing and reactionary leadership of the PLO.

I can discern a certain harmony between the young Palestinians in Jabalya camp and their brothers in Al-Duhayshah, 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Al-Yarmuk, and Al-Wahdat camps. These youths speak the same language, and, yes, they will put wavering leaders in a difficult position. I am referring here to those leaders who have been exploring the possibility of recognizing Israel and the Zionist entity. International blessings will not help them out of this dilemma. They will have to choose between returning to their popular roots or making the final leap and joining 'Arafat. I am speaking here about leaders who, while maintaining their seats in the PLO command, have uttered no more than two timid lines in protest of 'Arafat's policies. I have not seen them really acting. 'Arafat was making a deal in Cairo, as Usamah al-Baz said, and I did not hear them so much as a whisper.

[Jibril] In reply to the third and fourth questions, we always maintain that what counts is not the slogan itself but who supports it. If you give me truly revolutionary leaders, I will not care about tactical steps. Do those who advocate an independent Palestinian state do so without others imposing the recognition of the Zionist entity and the normalization of relations upon them? Those leaders who call for a Palestinian state are now normalizing ties with the Zionists even before a state is established. Contacts with the Zionists and meetings with the Likud Party are a very serious indication. We are of the opinion that the liberation of Palestine may take place in stages and not at one fell swoop. Zionist ideology also considers that control of the Arab homeland must take place in stages. There are two contradictory ideologies and each has its own tactics. Who will succeed first depends on the nature of the future struggle. We know that there is a tactic that must be pursued, but I would like to ask whether the current leaders want an independent Palestinian state that has a right to conclude international agreements and a right not to recognize the Zionist entity? In 1974 we agreed on a certain program, calling it the 10-point agreement, but the PLO leaders flouted this and made concessions in the Amman agreement, which King Husayn himself, and not the PLO leaders,

abrogated. True and effective revolutionary leaders, struggling for a Palestinian state, are not to be feared, provided that they do not recognize the enemy or normalize relations with him. We do not trust these present leaders. Tens of millions are sent to the occupied territory to pay for Yasir 'Arafat's photos to be displayed; but the people there laugh at this. This did really happen in the Gaza Strip.

[Sukkariyah] Should an international conference to resolve the issue be convened under the aegis of the Soviet Union and the United States, what would be your stand?

[Jibril] We believe that no conference will convene in the near future. We are aware of the nature of international conflicts and consider that the Soviet Union has raised this matter to counterbalance the U.S. onslaught on the Arab region. However, as revolutionary strugglers, we refuse to teach our people and generations to accept recognition of the Zionist enemy. How can the Soviet Union be more Palestinian and Arab than we are as long as Mubarak and the Egyptian regime recognize the Israeli enemy? As I have said, we believe that the Soviet Union has proposed this plan as a countermeasure. We do not see any chance of this conference convening. The revolutionary strugglers will not allow such deals to take place.

[Sukkariyah] What is your answer to the fifth question?

[Jibril] I have answered this question in the course of my remarks.

In reply to the sixth question, Jibril said:

A revolution which chooses to establish a government-in-exile or a provisional government does so because certain objective conditions, within the movement as well as outside it, are deemed favorable for such a move. This is not the case with the Palestinian movement. We began our armed struggle in 1965 but until this day we have not achieved Palestinian national unity. Anyone who claims that this unity was achieved at the Algiers conference is a liar or is unaware of what is going on in the Palestinian arena.

The first condition for establishing a provisional government is that such a government must be cohesive and strong. The second condition is a matter of physical location. That is to say, such a government should operate from territories adjacent to Palestine, ruled by regimes sympathetic to its cause. Is this condition satisfied? Has the PLO command found such a country which would back it in its armed struggle? Or do we want to have a government that is suspended in midair, in Tunisia, say?

The Algerian Government was first formed in Cairo. But then the Algerians found Cairo to be too far away. They moved on to Tripoli because it is closer to Algeria. The Algerian revolution also had excellent ties with the regimes in Tunisia, Morocco, and Libya.

We do not think that we have such favorable conditions. 'Arafat wants this move as an alibi to enable him to dispense with the PLO Charter, which ties him and tries him and through which we judge and correct him. 'Arafat wants to free himself of it. He wants to say that the provisional government is only committed to its government statement.

Everyone knows that there has long been pressure on the PLO from Western Europe and the United States to recognize the Israeli enemy and abrogate the PLO Charter. 'Arafat's answer was that this charter is history and is no longer taken into account. But we, in other Palestinian groups, still abide by the Charter, through which the PLO was founded. 'Arafat tells them that he recognizes UN Security Council Resolution 242. He is unable to declare this in public, however, because the Charter prevents him. This is why he wants to have a government-in-exile. He sometimes tries to sell us this idea by saying that the government-in-exile will get us out of the Jordanian tunnel; that we will be able to talk government to government. But he is actually making another deal with Jordan, just under another name. It is a sellout, but disguised.

In reply to the seventh question, Jibril said: First, we thank our people in the occupied territories who accomplished this miracle, ending this destructive war. We are now extremely happy. But I do not deny that I am not optimistic that the camps war file has been closed forever, though I hope this is the case. I am aware of certain hidden factors, namely the fact that there are Palestinian and Lebanese parties interested in seeing this bloodshed continue. These parties were forced to bend with the wind under the great pressure created by this uprising. We, as Palestinian and Lebanese national forces, must find the means to protect the agreement to end this war. This calls for agreement among all these parties, together with our brothers in Syria, to deter the plotters within both the Palestinian and Lebanese ranks, so they do not rekindle this war. Ending this war provides a very important, broad opening toward a struggle against the Zionist enemy present in southern Lebanon. Israel's Mossad will ally itself with the Lebanese Forces to strengthen even further their ties. The latter will strengthen their ties with some Palestinian parties. There are also some rebellious Lebanese groups within Amal. That is what I call them. All these parties believe they have been harmed by the end of this war. The uprising has made them bend with the wind, but they will try again to play the same game. Our responsibility is to keep the life buoy around the new Lebanese-Palestinian relationship and protect it. We must devote ourselves now to fighting the Zionist enemy.

We say very frankly that there is no need for the presence of weapons in Beirut, neither in the hands of the Amal Movement nor in the hands of the Palestinians. Weapons must be used to fight the enemy in the south. West Beirut has suffered enough. All these weapons must be directed toward fighting the Zionist enemy, which is occupying no less than 1,500 square km of Lebanon.

Chad

Ex-Opposition Political Movements Join UNIR AB080946 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs conference hall was used this morning for an important event: Four political organizations joined the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR]. As Comrade Adoum Moussa Seif said in his introductory remarks, it was a landmark event in the determined and peaceful march toward the unity of Chadian sons. As early as 0800, UNIR militants and a large crowd thronged the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to greet the various local and foreign personalities, in particular the diplomatic corps, and especially the president of the Republic and founding chairman of the UNIR, who personally presided over the ceremony this morning.

The comrade president arrived at the hall at about 1000 and was cheered heartily by the militants. After the UNIR anthem was sung by the party activists singing group, Comrade Adoum Moussa Seif, assistant commissioner for external relations of the UNIR Executive Bureau, took the floor to announce the schedule for the ceremony.

He later yielded the floor to Mahamat Senoussi Khatir, chairman of the CAC-CDR [Action Coordination Committee of the Revolutionary Democratic Council]. The latter, after recalling the history of his organization, gave a summary of our country's political situation and reviewed the various aspects and forms of Libyan aggression. He then announced the dissolution of the CAC-CDR and its decision to join the UNIR. [passage omitted]

Taking the floor later, Wadal Abdel-Kader Kamougue also summarized Chad's political history since independence and criticized the various past regimes for failing to work for Chad's unity and, in particular, for dialogue. The most solid agreements are based on dialogue, he stated. [passage omitted]

For his part, Ahmed Moussaye, a former official of the ex-FAP [People's Armed Forces] and now secretary of state for public works, town planning and housing, strongly criticized the Libyan policy in Chad and expressed his gratitude to the UNIR and its chairman, Comrade Hissein Habre. [passage omitted]

Finally, the last leader of the four political organizations to speak this morning was Nadjo Abdel Karim. He spoke on behalf of the Chadian People's Revolutionary Forces [FPRC]. He said Chadian officials and patriots at whatever level must not see themselves as defenders of the interests of only part of this family, of only one tribe or one region, but rather as national political activists and servants of all the Chadian people spread over the whole of Chad's 1,284,000 sq km, from the north to the

south and from the east to the west. He made an urgent appeal to all Chadians to gather around the UNIR in order to build national unity. [passage omitted]

For his part, the president of the Republic and founding chairman of the UNIR first questioned the role of various administrations that succeeded one another in our country and whose actions jeopardized unity among Chadians. He reviewed [words indistinct] and recalled the objectives of the UNIR. He stated that the UNIR is a dynamic body aimed at peace and unity. It is an open platform where everyone has his place and can contribute to (?national development).

Then the comrade president welcomed the four political leaders and congratulated them for rallying to the UNIR. He reiterated his call on all those who have not yet rejoined the great Chadian family to do so. He urged them to learn from the events of this morning. Let us listen to the address made by the comrade founding chairman of UNIR:

[Begin Habre recording] Comrades, ladies and gentlemen, our great challenges today are [word indistinct], unity, freedom, and reconstruction. For this reason, we must close our ranks and combine our energies in order to assume all our responsibilities. [applause] Since assuming the leadership of this country, it is with this conviction that we have constantly preached reconciliation among all the sons of Chad. In this connection, we took every opportunity to make urgent appeals to all Chadians to reunite as brothers, in the sole interest of the Chadian people. [applause]

We also asked for the assistance of all our friends, and you are aware of how difficult it was to obtain this assistance. I want to take this opportunity to once again thank all these friends and to express to them our deep gratitude. Thanks to their assistance, we have been able to achieve much on the road of peace and national reconciliation. [applause] [passage omitted]

Thus, I am very pleased and happy to welcome into UNIR today Brother Mahamat Senoussi Khatir and his comrades-in-arms of the CAC-CDR [applause]; Brother Wadal Abdel-Kader Kamougue and his comrades-in-arms of the MPRC [Chadian People's Revolution Movement] [applause]; Brother Ahmed Moussaye of the FAP [applause]; [words indistinct] and Brother Nadjo Abdel Karim and his companions of the FPRC. I say to them: Welcome into this great family, and congratulations. [applause]

On behalf of the UNIR Executive Bureau, on behalf of the Central Committee and of all the militants of our great family, I wish you a fraternal and warm union with UNIR. [applause]

Dear Comrades, your wise decision is a clear demonstration of your deep commitment to the national cause. Your gesture emphasizes your noble concern to see

national unity further strengthened and your ardent desire to join all your brothers and sisters in defending our country's independence, in safeguarding our freedom, and in ensuring a better future for our fatherland. [applause]

I am convinced that your decision to join UNIR, in light of the experiences of each one of you, in view of the current situation in Chad, and particularly in this crucial phase of our history, is not based on any ulterior motive or any political calculation, but rather on your commitment to the general interests and your concern to contribute to the task of national salvation. I believe those were the determining factors in your patriotic steps [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

This is an appropriate time for me to renew my call on all those who have not yet rejoined the great family to learn from the great event we are witnessing today. [passage omitted] [end recording]

FAO Group To Join Government

AB102118 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1830 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Chadian President Hissein Habre's patriotic call to his countrymen in exile has been receiving a favorable response, the latest is the joining of the Western Armed Forces, FAO, cadres allied to Goukouni Oueddei, the former GUNT chairman. In a communique issued in Lagos, Nigeria, and signed by the FAO Command Council Vice Chairman, (Afornou Chari Mayima), a former GUNT minister, the cadres of this political group state that their decision has been motivated by the serious danger threatening Chad as a free and sovereign nation. While calling on other patriots to follow suit, the FAO [word indistinct] Third Army cadres contend that without them, Goukouni Oueddei has no reason to exist as an opponent to the legal Chadian Government.

Stressing the concern for unity of all sons of Chad in the face of Libyan aggression, since Tripoli has, as they argue, expansionist ambitions on Chad, the FAO cadres believe that President Hissein Habre is the only man capable of achieving unity and peace in Chad.

In conclusion they consider that the coalition of GUNT and Libya is unpatriotic. The FAO cadres will meet again tomorrow in Maidougouri before going to Ndjamenas on Saturday [13 February].

MRP Denies Joining Government

AB111127 Paris AFP in French 1045 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Brazzaville, 11 Feb (AFP)— In a communique handed to the press today in Brazzaville, the Chadian People's Revolutionary Movement (MRP, opposition) denied joining the National Union for Independence and Revolution (UNIR—ruling sole party in Ndjamenas).

The communique, signed by MRP's Secretary General Bire Titinan, recalls that since 1987, Mr Kamougue, "who decided to abandon the struggle, has no longer been entitled to act on behalf of the MRP." Mr Titinan represents the dissident faction of the MRP opposed to its leader's reconciliation with Ndjamenas, observers note.

The communique further says: The MRP "once again affirms that a lasting solution to the Chadian crisis can only be achieved through the dismantling of the present neocolonial state organs in Chad. This can be done only by joining the tribalistic and regionalist clique in Ndjamenas, as the various groups are only increasing the suffering of the Chadian people."

Four former opposition movements on 7 February in Ndjamenas announced their dissolution, and their adherence to UNIR, it is recalled.

Red Cross Able to Visit Libyan POW's 'Freely'

AB091732 Paris AFP in French 1327 GMT
9 Feb 88

[Text] Paris, 9 Feb (AFP)—"Chad is indignant" regarding the "thoughtless" statement of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that it has been refused the right to visit Libyan prisoners detained in the country, Ahmad Allam-mi, Chadian ambassador in Paris, stated today.

The ICRC accused Chad and Libya in October of "seriously violating" international humanitarian rights by refusing any visits to prisoners of war. The ICRC pointed out yesterday that it has recently been able to meet Chadian prisoners in Libya, but negotiations with Ndjamenas to visit Libyan prisoners have been unsuccessful.

"Such a statement does not reflect reality. The ICRC has always been able to freely carry out its activities and has gotten support from Chadian authorities whether in Ndjamenas, Abeche, or Biltine," the ambassador said. On the other hand, he continued, "we have asked, in vain, for the ICRC to condemn the Libyan aggression and its inhuman behavior toward civilians. In 1987, we suspected its representative in Chad of plotting with Libya for the escape of Libyan prisoners."

"Now that the Libyans are indulging in extortion against the Chadian community in Koufra, notably through forced recruitment, we wonder what the ICRC intends to do. Chad, a sovereign country, is ready to cooperate with the ICRC but will not yield to any blackmail, Allam-mi concluded.

ICRC Accused of Libyan Bias

AB102153 Ndjamenas Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, recently made a rather curious statement, accusing Chad of refusing it the right to visit

Libyan POW's. This statement was made at a time when a delegation of the ICRC is in Ndjamen. This institution has thus launched an attack against our country, an attack which cannot hide its suspicious attitude.

In fact, it is real crusade that the ICRC is conducting against our country. This is the second accusation it has made against our country in less than 5 months. What is more serious is that in their tirade, the ICRC leaders put Chad and Libya on the same footing, accusing both of violating human rights. This attitude is even more shocking and irresponsible when it is known that representatives of ICRC have always gone about their activities freely in Chad.

Furthermore, they have constantly benefited from the support and the necessary facilities provided by Chadian authorities, and continue to have regular access to POW's whether in Ndjamen, Biltine, or Abeche. Besides, these POW's have always been presented to foreign reporters, who were able to see them and converse freely with them. Additionally, among other facilities, these POW's have been given access to the national radio through which they send messages to their families in Libya or elsewhere, even to foreign elements of the Islamic Legion. Wherein, then, lies the violation of human rights?

Are these facilities the same in Libya where the ICRC, in a clearly partial attitude in favor of Tripoli, speaks of Chadian POW's in that country? Everybody knows that there are no Chadian POW's: Such prisoners were either summarily executed or compulsorily conscripted into the Islamic Legion. The so-called Chadian prisoners the ICRC is referring to were drawn from the Chadian community in Libya, (?flogged), tortured, and imprisoned [words indistinct] in the Libyan Army in Chad. The ICRC conveniently remained mute about this.

Let us cast our mind back to point out the indescribable behavior of this so-called humanitarian organization at the time when part of Chad was occupied by the Libyan troops. The sad fate of our people under Libyan occupation could be summed up in these words: deportation, execution, subjection to bombing by poisonous gas or napalm. Yet this fate never did preoccupy the good samaritans of the ICRC. They did not raise the least finger against the Libyan regime to fulfill the mission assigned to them. Curiously enough, the ICRC suddenly woke up just after our victorious offensive against Libya, to express concern over their prisoners. This behavior cannot hide the suspicious attitude of the ICRC.

Inspired by Libyan agents, the ICRC or some people claiming to act for it, conducted secret negotiations with the Libyan secret service in a neighboring country in order to organize the escape of Libyan's POW's and to commit acts of terrorism. This is the truth, the true cause of the ICRC's offensive against Chad. It should be

recalled that as part of this offensive, this organization has even gone to the extent of asking France to pressure the government of Chad to attain its unavowed aims.

It is needless to tell the ICRC that this is blackmail and an unacceptable insult to Chad's sovereignty and to all independent people, going beyond the bounds of its real functions [words indistinct] and a clear interference in the internal affairs of Chad. It is therefore hoped that leaders of this institution, who until now have been respectable, should come to better terms and show judgment, and above all neutrality in accordance with the basic principles of activities of the ICRC. Chad will then show its usual policy of cooperation within the context of its sovereignty and independence.

Egypt

Mubarak Addresses Security Symposium in Cairo
NC101544 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1042 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the opening ceremony of a symposium on security issues at the Policy Academy in Cairo—live]

[Text] Dear brothers: I am pleased to welcome the brothers—the Arab interior ministers and members of the Arab delegations—who have come to participate in the Police Day celebrations. We appreciate and take pride in their participation because we believe that the challenges confronting our Arab nation at this stage require a maximum level of contacts and consultations, as well as exchanges of views on all aspects that affect our pan-Arab march.

We are meeting today on an occasion dear to all of us. The interest in this occasion is not confined to a limited number of people; rather, it extends to all citizens living on our good soil. Thus, this is a nationalist occasion, because, within this context, the primary element of loyalty to the homeland is the obligation to defend its security from without and from within its borders, secure the safety of its people, and take care of their interests.

You, brothers, are the devoted sons of Egypt. You represent the strong shield that protects its internal security, preserves its sanctities, enhances its bases, and deters any aggression against it. This is a great responsibility, a difficult task, and a noble message. With a fully satisfied conscience, I say to you: You have performed and continue to perform this sacred duty with utmost boldness, commitment, bravery, and pure conscience. The best proof of this is that some of those from your ranks, officers and men, have been martyred heroically while pursuing outlaws and those tampering with the homeland's resources and lofty values. Let us salute these faithful martyrs on Police Day, which represents a great event in the history of national struggle. On that occasion, policemen confronted a foreign military force

superior to them in both arms and numbers, refusing to let Egypt's flag fall. As they were swept into an unequal battle, they startled the aggressor and surprised the whole world by insisting that the flag should continue to fly high with pride. It was a decisive and strong declaration that Egypt's soil and dignity would be defended by men who vowed to sacrifice their lives so that Egypt would live.

A salute to the martyrs of the Al-Isma'iliyah battle, which has been recorded in history's brightest pages. A salute to the martyrs of all battles fought for the sake of maintaining Egypt's security and for preserving the freedom of Egypt's people in confronting any aggression.

O policemen, our population is growing at an alarming rate. This rise entails expanded state and individual activities, thus adding to the burden of maintaining security and enhancing the rule of law. This necessitates the development of facilities available to you in a manner commensurate with your growing responsibilities and burdens. I am aware that these developments make it incumbent upon you to exert more effort and to be more vigilant. We appreciate this, as do all citizens who feel that their country constitutes a magnificent example of a secure state and a secure people. This is what observers and our guests who come from various parts of the world attest to.

If some papers have disregarded the facts and some writers have permitted themselves to launch the fierce campaigns against the security men and distort the image of the quiet and secure life which we and these writers enjoy, then the most eloquent response to this distortion has come from the Arab brothers and the foreign guests from various countries who have travelled to Egypt as tourists in numbers unparalleled in the history of Egyptian tourism. They have come to enjoy the prevailing security and normal life, attracted by the hospitality of our good people, who welcome the guests on their land by exhibiting sincere, generous feelings. This is the most eloquent proof that this brightness will not be veiled by gloomy words, and that Egypt's position is much greater than any disgraceful excesses and practices, which harm their perpetrators before they harm Egypt's security.

Security in Egypt is a right everybody enjoys. Respect for the law and its supremacy in Egypt is a duty imposed upon every citizen in the interest of all citizens. The democracy we continuously seek to develop is not a right restricted to one party or community of the sons of Egypt at the expense of another. Democracy is the right of all the people. Every citizen has the right to share in decision-making by voting freely and by freely expressing his opinion. This right is not withheld from anyone for any reason. All Egyptians are equal as regards their rights and duties. No Egyptian is better than any other Egyptian except on the basis of useful work, correct commitment, and genuine, sincere loyalty.

It is the responsibility of the state, with its various constitutional institutions, to create the appropriate atmosphere to enable all citizens to practice democracy fully without any pressure or coercion. Nobody is deprived of the right to vote or to be nominated within the limits of the law. No citizen's right to express an opinion through the legitimate media organs is restricted. No mouths are shut; no pens are censored. Our revered judiciary, of which we are proud, operates on blind justice. All have equal rights before the judicial platform. They also are equal in respecting the verdict of the judiciary.

Practical experience has perhaps proved to all citizens that the Egyptian regime does not play with slogans, exploit them to camouflage or deceive, or raise them to conceal a secret or protect one person or group and not another. This is the real touchstone for a democracy based on the supremacy of the law.

Dear brothers, all of you know, and the people are the first to know, that we faced events that at a minimum could be described as difficult, and that there had been numerous reasons which might have prompted the regime to take extraordinary measures. However, we depended on the peoples' conscience, which emerged with full awareness during these events. We did not resort to extraordinary measures and matters took their natural course. This is the most magnificent victory of the democratic system; it is a firm and unshaken system and the established base of our life as we rebuild Egypt.

This firm commitment to democracy as a way of thinking and life has opened all doors closed to us. On the basis of democracy, we have fought the battle of economic reform and have come a long way in this respect. We have relied on revealing the facts to the people and making them participate in the responsibility of decisionmaking because, after all, they are the ones who benefit from each step taken and each policy adopted.

A national conference will be held shortly to discuss ways of increasing production to enable us to arrive at the correct decision in the renaissance phase in which Egyptian expertise and Egyptians from all walks of life are participating.

We base our work on consultation, we move in a spirit of teamwork. We respect opposite opinions and have no doubt about the Egyptian character of every Egyptian man or woman. If there have been violations in the practice of democracy in recent years deemed unacceptable by any zealous Egyptian, I think that time is capable of purifying these practices, eliminating their flaws, and favoring the national public interest over any individual or party interest.

It is our destiny to be surrounded by grave dangers in this region of utmost strategic importance. However, with penetrating vision and unflinching determination, we are capable of confronting all these dangers and challenges standing firm and with hearts that know no fear.

The inclinations toward extremism and terrorism, motivated by known and unknown forces, aim to erode our security and to threaten our social and economic stability.

The advocates of war and destruction are turning their ears away from the calls of peace and harmony. Foreign ambitions disguised with false masks are trying to infiltrate the ranks with contrasting views and twisted methods. The aim of this is to shake stability in the Arab region and to increase divisions and disputes within the unified family at the expense of peace and our peoples' future.

Undoubtedly, these ambitions impose enormous responsibilities on us. These require us to be constantly vigilant and fully prepared to deal with all possible eventualities, with minds cognizant of what is taking place behind the scenes and with eyes that are constantly watchful. Therefore, the responsibility for maintaining security and stability is a top priority in the national action. I would like to make the following remarks on this national occasion:

1. The security mission requires the policeman to rise above all attacks and biased allegations that seek to distort his noble and revered mission.

2. The mainstay of your work is the peoples' full confidence in you. The people appreciate your work and efforts. If people of goodwill insist on a quick accomplishment by you or demand quick results from your work in certain cases, then this is evidence of confidence and appreciation.

3. A police post anywhere in Egypt is the shelter and safe haven for every Egyptian who has been wronged or subjected to an attack. He will be accorded good, legal treatment and quick, active measures will be initiated at the post.

4. The rise of international terrorist networks provides terrorism with sophisticated capacities [imkaniyyat mutawwirah] and gives it more opportunities to exploit gaps in laws and measures. This, in turn, requires a continuous development of methods to catch up with the development of the means of conspiracy and terrorism.

5. The honest implementation of the law is the barrier that protects the law and achieves all of the positive results that are a consequence of the supremacy of the law. Laws have been promulgated to be implemented and to ensure that everything necessary to guarantee their just and honest application is provided.

6. The respect of individual rights is the first result of democracy. We must devote all of our efforts to promote and fortify these rights. The building of man is a continuous goal. Any jeopardy to an individual's constitutional rights in civilized Egypt constitutes a violation of democracy and a blow to freedom at a time when there is a dire need to strengthen the democratic structure.

7. Every right in a democratic state is countered by a duty. There are no rights without duties, and vice versa. The success of the building of the state depends on achieving a delicate balance between rights and duties. This balance is the spirit of democracy, which establishes justice and equality for every citizen in the land of Egypt and resolves contradictions among the conflicting interests.

8. The commitment to legitimacy is a genuine and fundamental obligation that must not be overstepped in any, not even the slightest, way. Any violation of the legitimacy constitutes a breach of the bases of the Constitution, the state, and the regime, because legitimacy is the guardian of the rights and duties and the indispensable pillar of security and stability.

9. The prestige of the state is the lantern that illuminates the road to stability, and any harm to this will be detrimental to the prestige of the entire people. This is true because the state belongs to the people, and because the regime is ruled by the people, by their free choice. Any violation of the will of the people is unacceptable and has no place in our country.

10. A person is innocent until proven guilty. Any direct or indirect attempt to influence the judiciary is explicitly punishable by law. The mass media must observe this constitutional principle with all due respect and accuracy.

Dear brothers and sons of the police: We do not endorse any law that threatens these liberties, silences tongues, or hampers free expression, because we believe that there can be no development without a free society that respects all opinions and enriches all ideas. At the same time, we believe that the law acts as the protector against any attempt to tamper with this society's freedom and cohesion, any attempt to impose certain opinions by force and oppression, or any attempt to deny freedom of expression. Freedom is for everyone, as is security. It is the responsibility of both the government and the people to observe freedom in order to guarantee security and, conversely, to preserve security so as to remain a protector of freedom. For this reason, all of our efforts to reconstruct the state are based on solid and firm grounds, abundant with work, and full of confidence and hope in tomorrow. As for those who cannot see the bright sunlight, those whose pessimism clouds their eyes to the truth about the huge accomplishments in all of the state's current activities, or those who choose to condemn all kinds of progress and distort all signs of success, or portend difficulties and defeats—we tell all of them that we cannot deny them the right to express their opinion, no matter how untrue. However, we hope they will join the march for development and dedicate their efforts toward a better future, because negative stands are futile. No matter how much they exaggerate their pessimistic views, and despite their calls for despair, reconstruction will move forward and will not take a single step backward. We look at the past only to gain advice and experience, and to avoid a repetition of mistakes. All of our energy is now geared to moving forward, seeking the

wide horizons of the present and the future. There is a chance for each and every citizen to join the drive with sincere efforts, dedication, and goodwill toward God and the homeland.

On this occasion, I would like to say that the reconstruction of the homeland will not be affected by this or that faction's efforts, or by means of a homeland divided into a faction of workers and another of spectators. The long and difficult battle for reconstruction that we embarked on approximately 7 years ago requires the positive and constructive contribution of each and every citizen throughout the country, both old and young, for the good of the individual and of society.

Dear brothers: Recent weeks have witnessed an active Egyptian move on Arab and international levels. The objective of this move was to serve the two issues constituting our sublime commitment: development and construction in Egypt, and the protection of the Arab nation's strategic interests by achieving a just comprehensive peace and promoting stability in our entire region.

It was natural to begin this move by holding intensive contacts with our brothers, the leaders of the fraternal Arab countries, so that through consultations and discussion we could reach a common view regarding the strategy to defend our rights and basic interests, and to serve our vital issues. I am pleased to be able to state here that my tour of the Arab states was extremely successful and that it attained its objectives. This matter did not escape the notice of political observers and analysts everywhere. We are confident that the good results of the tour will have an effect on joint Arab action during the coming years.

This tour emphasized the prominent position that Egypt enjoys among all the fraternal Arabs and the overwhelming feelings they harbor for the noble Egyptian people. The noble Egyptian people have been and will continue to be in the forefront of the forces defending Arab rights, confronting with determination and firmness all the challenges facing Arab and Islamic nations, not by giving way to fate but by exercising free choice and vigilant willpower.

I wish that all the sons of our great people could have been with me on this Arab tour so that they could have seen for themselves our sound pan-Arab front and have experienced first hand the nature of the feelings the Arabs and their leaders harbor for Egypt and its people. These feelings are mainly based on great respect and deep appreciation for a people whose desire to preserve its dignity and honor comes before its desire for food. The people have met their responsibilities at all stages and kept away from all trivialities. The people have not ceased for even one moment to achieve pan-Arab objectives and to defend the fateful issues. They have never traded with the cause, never said anything other than what it meant, and bowed their head only to God. The people have under all circumstances and in the face of all

challenges remained a lofty tower, unshaken by storms. Their willpower has remained solid and continues to hold aloft the banner of struggle.

This visit enabled us to get closely acquainted with the situation in the Gulf region. It increased our conviction that the fraternal Gulf states are fully capable, through their potentials and intrinsic power, of confronting the dangers facing them and of defending their land and the safety of their sons. There is no truth at all in the rumors that were propagated to the effect that these states have asked us to send military forces to participate in their defense in return for financial aid. This is an outrageous, unjust, and false rumor. The blood of Egypt's soldiers is not for sale or purchase, nor is the security of the Gulf states dependent on some thousands of soldiers summoned from here or there, regardless of how close the kinship is. [applause]

The protection for their security and their defense against dangers come through a comprehensive strategic concept, every aspect of which is clear. Every danger is dealt with according to its size, nature, and extent. I wish to make it clear where this matter is concerned that our aim is to put an end to this grinding war and stop the bloodshed. We have no racial or doctrinal dispute with Iran, and we do not accept sectarian sedition between Sunnis and Shi'as. We believe all Muslims are brothers who believe in the same God and rights. The Islamic nation must unite its ranks and mobilize its resources to confront the challenges of construction and progress, raise the level of all aspects of Muslim life, and arrive at an acceptable way of catching up with the contemporary scientific and technological revolution without abandoning spiritual values and cultural origins.

These are daunting challenges that Muslims cannot overcome if they devote themselves to fighting, destruction, and ruin, if they lose sight of the goal, if concepts become confused in their minds, and if they reach the point of not being able to differentiate between right and wrong, between benefit and harm, and between the basic constants for the livelihood of the individual and his community and the transient marginal issues that are quickly swept away by the winds and forgotten.

Events are taking place every day to prove to those who are still doubtful that the challenges are such that we cannot tackle them lightheartedly and with maneuvers, or adopt a policy that lacks seriousness and responsibility. The most recent of these events—and most possibly the gravest—is the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories. It is in essence a rebellion against the continued occupation and its repressive practices, a feeling of frustration and despair of a just solution that would bring salvation. Therefore, it was natural for Egypt to act without delay to support this uprising and to exploit it to serve the cause of this steadfast people. The uprising does not stem from a void. It should not be looked at as merely a vociferous expression of anger. It is a political action that indicates a deep awareness of the

facts and a clear vision of the goal, which may be summed up as the liberation of the territories and the will, and an end to occupation and foreign hegemony.

It is therefore our duty, if we are truly sincere in our support for the Palestinian people and in our backing of their cause, to work toward transforming its torch into a force for progress, in a way that enables this people to reap the fruit of their struggle so that the blood of the martyrs will irrigate the trees of freedom in the land of Palestine.

To achieve this, Egypt submitted an idea, the object of which is to focus the world's attention on the tragedy our brothers are experiencing under the occupation and to stress the need to end this tragedy immediately by starting peace negotiations, within the framework that the entire Arab nation and the overwhelming majority of other states have agreed to settle the dispute. This framework is an international conference for peace with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the other parties directly concerned with the dispute, including the PLO.

It was necessary that the initiative should, in the meantime, strengthen the position of the pro-peace forces in Israel and enable these forces to present the issue to the Israeli public in a positive way, winning their support for the moderate line which will permit all parties to take the first step along the long road out of the current impasse. The current situation serves no one's interests, nor does it guarantee the security and peace of one party or another. Indeed, the continuation of this impasse would be disastrous for all and would presage the worst consequences.

It is evident that this initiative does not provide a new settlement formula regarding the concept unanimously approved by the world community—the implementation of UN Resolution 242 and work toward settling all aspects of the Palestinian problem, as well as respect for the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. There are only two new factors in the initiative. They are the result of the uprising and the Israeli reaction. These factors are the demand that Israel respect the political rights and basic freedoms of the Palestinian citizen, and the demand for some sort of international participation to protect these citizens and guarantee their security after Israel failed to provide this protection.

It is regrettable to hear voices calling for leaving the uprising alone so as not to extinguish its flame. Such a call would, in practice and reality, deplete the potentials of this uprising and waste the positive effects it has generated. Thus, we would be wasting another chance to preserve Arab rights and stop the erosion of Arab interests. It is as if it is not enough that we have wasted opportunities in the past, so much so that some observers and analysts have described the history of the Palestinian issue as a series of lost opportunities.

In fact, if we search our memory, we will find that this analysis is quite right. Let us go back to the UN General Assembly resolution of 1948 [as heard] calling for the partition of Palestine. The resolution called for the establishment of two states, a Jewish state and a Palestinian state. We rejected the resolution, but where are we today? After 5 June 1967, it took us from June to November to get a resolution issued by the United Nations. On 30 June 1967, the Latin American countries presented us with a draft resolution to return the occupied lands to us in full, including East Jerusalem, in return for the recognition of Israel. However, the foreign ministers of two countries, Syria and another friendly country, took the lead in opposing this draft resolution, thereby compelling the UN General Assembly to turn it down. Then we kept trying several other draft resolutions until November [1967], when we were presented with Resolution 242, which we found to be worse than the Latin American resolution. We objected and said: Let us go back to the old one. Yet they said: No, this is history now, forget it, what is done is done. Thus we wasted the first resolution and ended up with Resolution 242 with all its problems. Had we accepted the first... [incomplete sentence as heard]. Yet those two ministers took the lead in rejecting the resolution, acting like the defense line in soccer. Yet what good did that do? There is no need for me to go through the texts of these resolutions, because you are all aware of them. What I want to say is that we waste many opportunities, and this is not confined to us. They [the Israelis] also waste many opportunities, but the difference between us is that they have the land. They have the land, so it does not matter for them if opportunities are wasted. As for us, if we waste an opportunity, we will be the losers. The more opportunities we waste, the more we lose.

This does not mean wasting the opportunities and blowing the chances for peace were things confined to the Arabs. In fact, Israel has wasted several opportunities for a just settlement, too; the difference between the two of us is that Israel does not suffer much from wasted opportunities. Let us be frank about this and not fool ourselves. Israel does not suffer much by wasting an opportunity. Israel is the one occupying the land and the one that will be required to pull out in the event of a legitimate settlement. There is even a substantial section of the political establishment in Israel that does not hide its unwillingness to reach any solution to the problem under the current circumstances. They do not want any solution now, hoping that after some time the issue would turn into a fait accompli, the Palestinians would be finished, the matter would be closed, and the state [words indistinct].

This also does not mean we must rush in, accepting any settlement for fear of losing the opportunity. This is definitely not what is meant, and I underline this last point because I know many people will criticize us; well, not so many actually.

The intention is that we should not squander an opportunity to reach a just solution, as long as it provides the

minimum required to protect our rights. We must try to improve upon whatever is proposed or offered through perseverance and an effective influence, by all possible means, because the retrieval of what is right is a complicated and extremely delicate process and not an inanimate mold that one can say to: let it be and it shall be.

An example of this is that the United States has in the past few days, thought of presenting certain ideas to make the parties start a dialogue on the objective points that each believes necessary for a political settlement. The U.S. Administration has expressed its willingness to present its own ideas and concepts after all parties have presented their concepts and demands. We have understood from the American side, I have understood from the American side, that their present ideas have not yet crystallized and have not yet taken their final form. Hence, we must help crystallize and polish these ideas, not ignore them, so they can approximate what we want. In the end, our will shall remain free to accept or reject what is being offered, according to our assessment of its suitability to achieve peace. If it transpires that the proposals will take us back to the autonomy formula, as is rumored in some circles, our sincere advice will be that we should develop these proposals in another way, because the autonomy formula has been overtaken by events. Israel has divested this of its context by its narrow and erroneous interpretations of the texts and its practices and stands that contradict the provisions of this formula. It is illogical in 1988 to try to revive something that has been buried by the events and practices of 7 years.

We have chosen peace as our struggle, goal, and destiny. We will not deviate from this choice and we will not retreat, regardless of the obstacles. Peace means life for all. There are no victors and no vanquished in wars that seem endless. Peace means justice for all. Repression will never change the people's right to freedom, sovereignty, and independence. Our duty is to continue toward achieving peace, without fear or hesitation, with the same enthusiasm that we have in the construction process. It is not right for us to ever forget that building Egypt is the duty of all of us. Building Egypt is the right of the coming generations, which should not suffer what the present generation is suffering. The construction stages are consecutive, intertwined, and successive. We thank God that we have achieved in 6 years what no one thought we could achieve, despite all the economic difficulties and bottlenecks. However, we consider the achievements, despite their volume, the mere beginning of the road.

The way is long but we are capable of mastering it. Every citizen can see now on a day-to-day basis that Egyptian industries have been established, prospered, and are presently competing with foreign products in qualitative terms. There is an increasing demand for them from foreign markets. The way is long and it might appear desolate at times, but the wheel of work continues to turn

and make progress. The Egyptian people's will shall not be broken as long as we have a pulsating artery and a hand capable of carrying the trust.

Dear brothers, Police Day reflects our celebrations and our pride in the security men who are exerting all their efforts and sacrificing their lives for the sake of ensuring society's stability and every citizen's feeling that his family, his way to work, and his daily life are secure. Every citizen is a security man in his own community. Security is a feature of life and the true manifestation of the citizens' feelings we all are creating with our concern over public possessions and our respect for the rights and freedoms of others. While talking to you today, I am highly optimistic that the present time is leading us to the future. Our present proves that we are proceeding along the correct path. The visions of the future in our conscience are filling us with hope and with feelings of security and stability. However, we always must move toward the right goal and along the right course. Movement is the law of life and development. Let the aim of our lives be movement based on science, planning, and an evaluation of priorities.

To stop as a result of retreat, shakiness, or a loss of self-confidence is the gravest thing threatening us. A halt means stagnation. Retreat means the collapse of the will. Shakiness paralyzes progress. The time has come for all of us to rally around the correct tune. There are no more people listening and responding to discord and to high-pitched voices. Extremism, a slide into violence, and ignorant calls will not be capable in any way of confronting a society that has made up its mind, has crystallized its opinion and view on the basis of stability and development. Decisions are taken for the sake of the people; hence, the people must be the decision-makers. If the position of primary responsibility is required to make a decision, then this responsibility dictates that this decision should express the pulse of the millions.

Rule by consensus [hukm al-shura] expresses the will of the millions. The ruler's decision is taken for the sake of the millions. The positions vary between support and opposition, but they are all joined together in one system—the ruling system. The rule is never in favor of one sector at the expense of another. The rule is for all and in the name of all.

I pray to God Almighty to inspire us all toward the correct and wise way, for He is all-hearing and all-responding. May He grant us and you success. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Kuwaiti Interior Minister Delivers Message
LD102137 Kuwait KUNA in English 1654 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 10 (KUNA)—President Husni Mubarak of Egypt Wednesday received a message from His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, content of which was not revealed.

Kuwaiti Minister of Interior Shaykh Salim Al Sabah, who is currently in Egypt to take part in a seminar on contemporary Arab security issues, delivered the message during his meeting with President Mubarak here today. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Cairo 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Kandari was present.

Wali Leaves for Cooperation Talks in Jordan
*NC110718 Cairo MENA in English 0704 GMT
11 Feb 88*

[Text] Cairo, Feb 11 (MENA)—Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture Dr. Yusuf Wali left here today for Amman on a one-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of Crown Prince Hassan. The visit takes place within constant consultations between Egypt and Jordan.

Dr. Wali will have talks with the Jordanian crown prince on convening a conference for Arab scientific and technological cooperation in the Jordanian capital.

Joint Turkish Economic Committee Begins Session
*NC101723 Cairo MENA in English 1455 GMT
10 Feb 88*

[Text] Cairo, Feb 10 (MENA)—The Egyptian-Turkish Economic Committee started its fourth session today to discuss economic cooperation between the two countries in preparation for talks to be held by the prime ministers of both countries here on Saturday.

Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, leads the Egyptian side to the two-day meetings while Adnan Kahveci, Turkish minister of state for economic affairs who arrived here yesterday, leads his country's side.

The committee will discuss industrial integration between the two countries, cooperation in marketing in the outside world, promoting air trips between them, cooperation in the production of non-conventional animal feed and fodder, and the establishment of a joint agricultural project on fishing and fisheries.

Views Cooperation Opportunities
*TA101333 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1100 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] The fourth round of the Turkish-Egyptian Joint Economic Committee meetings has begun in Cairo. Turkey is represented at the talks by a delegation headed by Minister of State Adnan Kahveci. Measures to eliminate the imbalance in bilateral trade and the various problems in different fields will be discussed, as will the possibilities for cooperation in many industrial fields, including defense. Officials said that the signing of a 5-year maritime agreement and Turkish loans to Egypt might also be addressed. The Egyptian delegation at the talks is headed by Maurice Makramallah, Egyptian minister of state for international cooperation.

Prior to the talks, Kahveci held a meeting with Egyptian Minister of Industry Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab. Possible ways to increase cooperation in the industrial field were discussed at the meeting.

Bulgaria's Tanchev Arrives on Visit 10 Feb

Arrival Statement Cited
*NC101941 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT
10 Feb 88*

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—Bulgaria declared its support for Egypt's stand on the need to hold an international peace conference to be attended by all concerned parties, including the PLO. It also declared its support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

This was stated by Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of Bulgaria's State Council, following his arrival in Cairo tonight. He is heading a delegation on an official 2-day visit to Egypt, at the invitation of Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi, who received him at the airport.

Tanchev said he is carrying a written message from the Bulgarian president to President Husni Mubarak, who is to receive him during the visit. He added that his visit to Cairo comes within the context of strengthening bilateral relations in all fields, particularly the political and economic ones.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the Bulgarian guest stressed the need to end it and expressed his belief that this problem could be solved if the relevant UN Security Council resolution is implemented.

Tanchev is scheduled to hold talks with Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, People's Assembly speaker; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture; Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs. His Eminence Shaykh Jad al-Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq, the grand imam of Al-Azhar, is also scheduled to receive him.

The Bulgarian official will hold a news conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Heliopolis at 1500 on Friday [12 February] before his departure.

Received by Mubarak
*NC101946 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT
10 Feb 88*

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received in the presidential palace in Heliopolis this evening Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of Bulgaria's State Council, and the delegation accompanying

him, which arrived in Cairo earlier today. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ali Lutfi, speaker of the Consultative Council, and the Bulgarian Ambassador in Cairo.

Seeks To Promote Relations

NC101957 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak this evening, Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of Bulgaria's State Council, said he handed the president a message from Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov containing an invitation for his excellency to visit Bulgaria this year.

The Bulgarian official praised the relations between Egypt and Bulgaria, saying that the purpose of his visit was to contribute to the strengthening and elevation of the level of bilateral relations in various fields, particularly the parliamentary one; the consolidation of cooperation between the two governments; and the strengthening of contacts between the presidents of the two countries.

Mr Tanchev added that cooperation in the economic, cultural, and tourist fields was also discussed during the meeting.

The Bulgarian official said: We have been and continue to be loyal friends. We have common stands, particularly regarding the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East. I take this opportunity to reaffirm Bulgaria's support for such a conference.

Confers With 'Abd al-Majid

NC111144 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)— Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this morning received Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of Bulgaria's State Council.

Following the meeting, Tanchev voiced his country's support for an international conference for Middle East peace in which all the parties concerned should take part, including the PLO.

Tanchev told MENA that such a conference would be the best way to resolve the Middle East crisis and tackle the region's disputes.

The Bulgarian official said that he had discussed bilateral ties with Dr 'Abd al-Majid, adding that Bulgaria is eager to promote its relations with Egypt. He also mentioned that other international issues of common concern were discussed during the meeting and that views about them were identical.

Tanchev remarked that he had invited Dr 'Abd al-Majid to visit Bulgaria, with the date of the visit will be determined later through diplomatic channels.

Tanchev arrived in Cairo last night.

Daily Criticizes Subservience to U.S. 'Aid'

PM101207 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
2 Feb 88 pp 1-2

[Adil Husayn article: "Down With Moderation—Welcome to Extremism"]

[Excerpts] Although President Mubarak's trip to the United States had been postponed for more than 2 years I do not think that our government planned and prepared for it well. Genuine planning would have meant introducing fundamental changes in everything. As we know, that has not happened. Years have passed but we are still seeking mercy and charity.

There have been media exaggerations about the talks agenda. Much has been said about initiatives to resolve the "Middle East crisis," and proposals for the "protection of Gulf security." However, public interest focused on the "bilateral relations" clause, which has come to mean loans and repayments, and what would become of the U.S. "aid": Would it remain as it is or be reduced, and would the United States plead with the IMF on our behalf for leniency? The truth is that all our diplomatic missions in the Western states now operate along these lines, making the question of loans, grants, and repayment facilities the core of their operations. How terrible!

How could our government, with all these preoccupations, dare to ask the Western states to stop threatening our interests and stop aggression on our borders and territories? Seeking rescheduling of debts and things like that means going with head bowed and speaking with a faint voice, whereas seeking other things requires a head held high and an angry, proud voice. One cannot play the two parts at the same time and at the same meeting. [passage omitted]

The so-called U.S. "aid" calls for a closer look. Much has been said about it. In addition to the humiliation and calls for gratitude thrown at us by U.S. officials day and night, our rulers are frightened and are continuously saying: What if the Americans got angry and stopped the "aid"? I recall that a high-ranking official once talked to me about Egyptian reservations (at that time) regarding the passage of U.S. nuclear warships through the Suez Canal because our nuclear experts suspected that there was a possibility of extremely serious and dangerous radiation leaks. I was astonished, however, when he told me that the Americans thought that we were "overreacting" and that we hardly gave them anything in return for the "aid" we got. I was surprised, but I believe that official was joking. He should rest assured that the American calculations are well thought out on a basis which they clearly state in all their public reports: The

purpose of the U.S. Government aid is to maintain calm and stability in Egypt because at present the Egyptian state is, they say, a force for moderation in the region. That is the job for which we get \$1 billion annually with the approval of the U.S. Congress and particularly the "Zionist lobby." [passage omitted]

The dominant power in our region at present is, above all, the United States. Moderation, therefore, means opposition to any inclination to mutiny against that domination, and that means standing against the Islamic tide, against the spirit of jihad, and against the transformation of our Arab nation into a united and independent economic and military power.

That is the meaning of moderation our government has accepted for many years, and we hold everyone witness to the fact that this policy has cost us much more than they have given us. I will not use here the argument that we have traded our future for our present, although that is the true general picture. I will just confine myself to the economic and financial angle. From the narrow limited angle of benefits, from the purely economic angle of profit and loss, I maintain that we are like a security guard who, betraying the trust in him, accepts a 50-pound bribe from thieves to allow them to steal the contents of the store estimated, say, at 50 million pounds. In other words, we are playing the role of stupid partner. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, we maintain that the Egyptian and Israeli governments get funds from the United States to serve U.S. strategic objectives. Israel plays a positive regional part in that strategy and Egypt plays a negative part in the same strategy. The positive part means that a strong Israel acts as the U.S. hand which strikes at anyone who contemplates rebellion or opposition. The negative part means that Egypt remains morally, militarily, economically, and politically weak—and, consequently, spreads weakness and submission to pressure and blackmail throughout the region. [passage omitted]

Domestic Groups Respond to Mubarak's Initiative
PM101235 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
2 Feb 88 p 4

[Muhammad 'Abd al-Quddus report: "Criticism Of Mubarak Initiative Escalates"]

[Text] Despite the fact that President Mubarak presented his initiative via U.S. media services just before his visit to the United States, President Reagan's government gave a cool reception to his initiative and was enthusiastic only for a 6-month truce between the Palestinians and the Israelis! U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz declared that direct negotiations are the ideal method of negotiations between the Arabs and Israel. This statement hit the Egyptian initiative's most vulnerable spot, as among its main clauses is a call for an international peace conference—something that Israel rejects. The United States of course supports it, because

the U.S. elections are approaching; for this purpose anything will be done for Israel, even at the expense of human rights and lost freedom.

The Egyptian opposition has already declared its opinion of the initiative, as most of its groups oppose it for a fundamental reason, that is, that the initiative is trying to stop the uprising of the oppressed on earth, the Palestinians, which is the only way to restore their rights and lost freedom so long as Israel is protected by the U.S. veto.

Via last Tuesday's AL-SHA'B, the alliance leaders were the first to criticize Mubarak's plan. Both the Socialist Nasirite Party and the NPUG said no to the plan. Al-Wafd Party preferred to wait and keep silent, although its paper has criticized the initiative. Yasin Siraj al-Din said: I am amazed that they have not consulted the Palestinians. Even in the Liberal Party, which supported Mubarak's initiative, its leader, Mustafa Kamil Murad, declared that he understood the ending of violence to mean the end of Israeli violence, since the Palestinian demonstrations cannot be considered as violence.

Both Struggler Labor Party (SLP) leader Ibrahim Shukri and Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr had earlier criticized the initiative. SLP leaders did so in detail as the party's secretary general Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad said: The spontaneous uprising of the Palestinian people, armed only with their belief in the cause and some stones, has prompted world public opinion to remedy their conditions in the occupied territories. The rest of the Arab peoples, leaders, and officials should have made a move to back this blessed uprising and use it to secure a quick and just settlement in the occupied territories in preparation for a comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian problem.

In my opinion, any political moves made to strike while the iron is hot must take two matters into consideration: first, not to participate in extinguishing the fire of the popular uprising before it produces any result, even with regard to the urgent step concerning Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. I mean that Israel should withdraw immediately from these territories, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, or accept the positioning of UN forces to ensure that the 1949 Geneva Convention relating to the treatment of civilians in the occupied territories is honored.

Second: Our experience with Israel prompts us not to trust any promises it makes, as it resorts to various ways of procrastination when it comes to fulfilling them in order to realize its expansionist ambitions. What happened regarding the talks on autonomy is not too distant an example. The Camp David agreement set a year for these talks, but they have been continuing for nearly 3 years. They have reached a dead end because of Israel's intransigence and its distorted interpretation of the agreement's stipulations.

On this basis the alliance rejects the initiative President Husni Mubarak announced via THE WASHINGTON POST without consulting the opposition parties—the initiative which started with an undertaking that the violent acts in the occupied territories shall be stopped for 6 months, as if the uprising erupted with one decision and can be stopped by another. The initiative equates the resistance of those whose territories were usurped—those who are expressing their feelings toward restoring their usurped territories—with the barbaric repressive acts exercised by Israel. These acts reached the point of breaking the hands and arms of the juvenile and youths so that they would be unable to throw stones at the occupying forces—something that violates the simplest human rules.

The initiative does not stipulate that something be obtained in return for taking part in the stopping of the uprising—something to improve the current situation in the occupied territories. It is content with promises neither specific nor immediate, with no guarantees that they will be fulfilled by an enemy who has long proved to be deceitful, since he does not honor his promises. It is feared that such a move might cause fighters in the Palestinian territories to suffer from a state of frustration. That way we would be participating in what Israel, and those supporting it, are seeking to do, namely, to destroy the spontaneous popular Palestinian uprising.

Farid 'Abd al-Karim, the man in charge of the Socialist Nasirite Party, was very eager to condemn the initiative when I asked him about his opinion of it: It extinguishes the fire of revolution that has erupted in the occupied territories. History, he says, teaches us that the real Palestinian tragedy began when the Palestinian revolution stopped in 1936 after 6 months of civil disobedience. Had it not been for that, the State of Israel would not have been established in the first place.

He added: The new initiative is mainly in Israel's interest; it gives Israel the opportunity to take a breather. It is absolutely out of the question that the Palestinian people will be able to restore their rights via an international conference. What was taken by force can only be regained by force.

Furthermore, via its paper the NPUG has declared its rejection of Mubarak's initiative. However, the NPUG Secretary General Khalid Muhyi al-Din did not wish to make a statement. I asked him about the reason for this. He replied: "Suffice it to say that the party's paper has expressed its rejection; as for my opinion, I see that the Palestinian uprising must be backed rather than weakened. It is the uprising that will eventually secure an honorable peaceful solution that will preserve all rights for the Palestinians. The uprising is the primary vehicle, that is why it must continue in order to achieve the proper solution." Condemning the initiative, Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad, a prominent figure in the party, wrote under the title "On the Egyptian Initiative": Why

should we volunteer to request that the uprising be stopped? Khalid Muhyi al-Din said that his opinion represents not only himself, but the entire party as well.

In his interview with AL-SHA'B, Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad declared his support for President Mubarak's initiative. In his view the initiative is a sound practical move toward a solution to the Palestinian problem.

I told him: A true solution can only be secured through the blessed uprising now maintained by the Palestinian people, an uprising the initiative is trying to erase by requesting all violent acts cease.

He replied: This initiative is directed at the Israelis alone, because the peaceful demonstrations staged by the Palestinians cannot be considered violence, even if they use stones. Violence, in my opinion, is what the Zionists are using against the unarmed demonstrators—the firing of bullets and the barbaric repressive measures—that is the real violence.

He added: By his initiative Mubarak meant to embarrass Israel and expose it, because Israel actually does not seek peace. On this basis we support him.

The Al-Wafd Party is still keeping silent. Some of its members, like Dr Muhammad 'Usfur, have criticized the initiative via the party's paper, but this was in a personal capacity. This is what Yasin Siraj al-Din, head of the party's parliamentary group, stressed to us. He said that Al-Wafd is still examining world reactions, especially Arab reactions, and the Palestinian reaction in particular.

I said: The Palestinians have rejected it.

He said: Yes, but only some factions.

I asked him: And what is your personal opinion in this regard?

He said: I prefer to wait for the party's opinion. However, I am really amazed that the Palestinians, the proponents of the cause, were not consulted before the initiative was presented.

Students Protest Over Detentions, Restrictions *PM101245 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic* *2 Feb 88 p 1*

[Abd al-Rahman Abu al-Aynayn report: "Renewed Student Demonstrations at 'Ayn Shams University"]

[Text] Student demonstrations started up again both yesterday and the day before [Monday, 1 February and Sunday, 31 January] in protest at the continued detention of a large number of students by the Interior Ministry and at the excessive wave of price increases, and in support of the "stone-throwing uprising" in the occupied territories.

The students organized demonstrations inside the university campus demanding the release of their detained colleagues, an end to the violations being committed by the university campus security organs, and the abrogation of the current student list. The students repeatedly shouted demands for the Egyptian Government to sever relations with the Zionist entity.

Furthermore, lawyer Ibrahim Najib submitted a petition to the Public Prosecutor against the governor of Abu Za'abal Prison for refusing to permit him to visit the detained students despite his procurement of a permit from the District Attorney's Office. The prison administration also refused to allow food and personal requisites to be taken in to the detainees.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader on Political Aims
PM101059 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
5 Feb 88 pp 30, 31

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr by Usamah 'Aja in Cairo; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Brotherhood recently began to prepare itself to establish an officially recognized political party. During an interview with Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr, AL-HAWADITH tried to discover the truth behind such a step and the possibility of the Egyptian Party Committee's agreeing to it.

AL-HAWADITH: It has recently been reported that the Muslim Brotherhood is on its way to announcing the formation of its own party. It is reportedly going to be called the justice [Al-'Adalah] party or the consultation [Al-Shura] party. What truth is there in this, and has a final formula been reached regarding the party's program to be presented to the party committee? If so, what are the outlines of such a program?

Abu al-Nasr: When the party formation law passed the Muslim Brotherhood decided to work toward establishing a party within the conditions set by the law. Some competent brothers from all fields actually assumed the task of drawing up a program for the party, which is being sent to the appropriate body. However, no particular name has yet been agreed. Such a party is not sectarian, contrary to what some people believe. The outlines of the party's program will be announced in the near future. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The Muslim Brotherhood has maintained a presence in the People's Assembly for many months. How can the experiment be assessed, either negatively or positively, when the group has displayed no tangible activity in this regard?

Abu al-Nasr: While the Brotherhood has done its duty at the People's Assembly perfectly, regrettably it has no newspapers to publish its ardent parliamentary efforts.

Official assessment is also imposed on it within the media services. In view of these harsh measures, the Brotherhood deals with whatever is presented in parliament very carefully and fairly. We do not criticize for the sake of public exposure; we only resort to constructive criticism—criticism that unites rather than divides, combines rather than fragments, especially in the difficult circumstances the country is experiencing.

AL-HAWADITH: There have been many reports of differences that could end the tripartite alliance among the Muslim Brotherhood, the Labor Party, and the Liberal Party arising from the differences in the parties' ideological stances. What are these differences, and who has benefited from them?

Abu al-Nasr: The alliance was built on strong foundations agreed to by everyone. No one differs over these foundations, which include the call for applying the Islamic Shari'a and endorsing social freedoms and justice, as well as other demands that would benefit the country. Undoubtedly, some people are trying to eliminate the alliance by any means, honorable or dishonorable. We do not want to mention these means, because Almighty God is watching them. The alliance is proceeding firmly and knows its duty; it is working for the interests of the homeland. There are no differences among its parties, praise be to God. In fact, the alliance is getting stronger and more popular every day. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Why does the Brotherhood not play a tangible ideological role in assessing the political course of some Islamic groups, especially when such groups have split from the Muslim Brotherhood fold?

Abu al-Nasr: These groups, whose movement is believed by some to be harmful to the country's interests, are in fact the product of the suppression of thought and of Islamic leaders during the eras of 'Abd al-Nasir and Al-Sadat, a period of 30 years. The Brotherhood does not enjoy official or press existence; nor does it have a residence at which meetings with such groups can be held. There is still a ban on Brotherhood activities. In fact, some official circles harbor much hatred against the Muslim Brotherhood. They have not learned from what happened to the oppressive leadership in the past. When the Brotherhood is given official status, an official residence, and papers to speak on its behalf, the ideologies of some of these groups can then be dealt with in order to correct them both gently and patiently in accordance with God's book and the Sunna of his prophet, thus achieving the tranquility and stability we need at this time. [passage omitted]

Libya

Practice, Support of Terrorism Denied
LD110935 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0750 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Feb (JANA)—A source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison

has commented on the remarks made by Charles Redman, the official spokesman of the U.S. State Department, about the statements of the brother leader of the revolution published by THE WASHINGTON POST on 8 February 1988. He said:

"The statement made by the official spokesman is nothing but a continuation of the U.S. Administration's policy of disinformation and deceiving American and international public opinion. This has already been exposed by the U.S. media.

"It is the United States which practiced and is still practicing the policy of official state terrorism, from the extermination of the American Indians to the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Vietnam war, the bombing of Lebanon, the invasion of Grenada, the U.S. barbaric aggression against the Jamahiriyyah, and the backing of Savimbi's gangs in Angola, Habre's in Chad, and the contras in Nicaragua.

"The U.S. Administration has to admit that its dispute with the Jamahiriyyah is a political one, based on the Jamahiriyyah's rejection of the policy of hegemony, domination, terrorism, starvation of peoples, and interference in their internal affairs.

"The Great Jamahiriyyah does not practice terrorism, nor does it support it, and all the false U.S. allegations have been quashed by the legal investigations carried out on the events which the Reagan administration used as a justification for its barbaric aggression on the Jamahiriyyah. International and regional organizations have condemned the U.S. aggression, emphasizing the immoral nature of this aggression against a small nation directing all its capabilities toward construction and development."

Al-Qadhdhafi Praises Soviet Troop Withdrawal
LD111021 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1004 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Feb (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution told JANA: I praise Gorbachev's courageous announcement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. It is a wise decision reflecting the desire for peace and respect for the peoples' will. Following this, I wish the French troops would withdraw from Chad and the U.S. troops from Chad and Panama.

Talks Continue With Afghan Foreign Minister
LD101801 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, who is on a friendly tour to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah, yesterday met with 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, a member of the Libyan revolution's leadership, at his office. During the meeting, the Afghan foreign minister discussed in detail the new developments in the process of politically resolving the

situation around Afghanistan and the recent announcement by the esteemed Najibullah, the Afghan president, as another new move to speed up the process of talks in Geneva between the Afghan Republic and Pakistan.

He also informed the other side about the aspects, aims, and mechanism of the national reconciliation policy in the national and international arenas, which has complemented the process of resolving the situation around Afghanistan. They spoke in a comprehensive way about mutual cooperation and relations and the expansion and development of these relations, as well as regional and international topics.

His Excellency 'Abd al-Salam Jallud expressed gratitude for the solidarity and support by the government and people of the Afghan Republic for the government and people of Libya, and reasserted the unstinting support of the government and people of that country for the national reconciliation policy and revolutionary developments and changes in the Afghan Republic.

According to another report, the foreign minister and his accompanying delegation took part in an evening reception which was given in their honor by Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, foreign minister of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah. The deputy foreign minister and high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials of that country and the Afghan ambassador and members of the embassy took part in the reception.

The report adds that 'Abdul Wakil and the delegation accompanying him this morning visited the home of Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi which was destroyed by U.S. planes. While registering their sorrow in a special book, they called the aggression by U.S. aircraft savage.

French Views of Al-Qadhdhafi Speech Attacked
LD101630 Tripoli JANA in English 1446 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Replying to comments made to France International Radio by Didier Bariani, the French minister delegate attached to the minister of foreign affairs, over France's fear from the speech made by the leader of the revolution at Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf, a source at the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau has made the following comments:

1—The historic occasion on which the leader of the revolution made his speech is a question connected with the struggle of the Arab nation against French colonialism. It is neither an invention of an imaginary happening, nor a falsification of historical events. No one is of the opinion that Algeria, Tunisia and Great al-Jamahiriyyah at the level of their leaderships and peoples do need a prior permission from France to celebrate this occasion or to talk on its deep historic meaning.

2—France's apprehension that the meetings among the three countries will become meetings not aiming only at cooperation is expressed through the comments made by the French official representing the old colonial mentality that prevails on the authorities in France.

3—The stance expressed by the French official represents a flagrant interference in the internal affairs of Algeria, Tunisia and Great al-Jamahiriyyah, apart from being an attempt by the French Government to poke its nose in affairs that don't concern it.

4—The question of cooperation, complementation and unity among Tunisia, Algeria and Great al-Jamahiriyyah are matters that concern these countries and their one people on the one land. What has been expressed by the French official is actually no more than a confirmation of the enmity of those circles hostile to the Arab nation in the Arab countries besides being an exposed attempt on the part of these circles that aim at confiscating the right of the Arab nation to achieve its aspirations of unity and complementation.

Frolinat Statement on Chadian Merger Reported
LD102004 Tripoli JANA in English 1827 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Cotonou, Al-Nuwar [February] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The first army—Frolinat—refuted claims by France's world service radio on what it had called "merger of 4 factions of the Chadian National Unity Government with the puppet Ndjamenia clique".

It said: "Such factions are imaginary which were formed in Paris and has no relation with the factions that had signed Lagos accords which set the Chadian National Unity Government. [quotation marks as received]"

In a statement issued today, it asserted that until now none of the heads of the internationally known factions, which signed the Lagos accords, had joined the puppet Ndjamenia clique with the exception of "Kamougue" who is being under house arrest in Ndjamenia.

The statement pointed out that the national reconciliation, which the Chadian people is awaiting, is the comprehensive reconciliation between all the sides which are struggling on the Chadian arena to bring about peace and stability within the framework of the Organisation of African Unity without intervention of French and American foreign colonial forces or their agents in the continent who are occupying Chad to protect the puppet Ndjamenia clique.

The Frolinat statement stressed that the involvement of French and American colonial forces in Chad is the main reason for the undermining of peace, security and stability of this African country.

'Fierce Battles' Cited in Southeast Chad
LD102100 Tripoli JANA in English 1830 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Cotonou, Al-Nuwar [February] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—News reported that fierce battles are raging between the forces of the first army "Frolinat" and the troops of agent "Ibri" in the "Qouz Baida" [name as received] area of south eastern Chad in which the forces of agent Ibri had suffered huge losses.

The first army asserted that those battles were raging in the areas of "Jarlobitkin" [as received], "Malgha", and "Qama", "Am Dam", "Mongo", "Am Timan" and in the suburbs of Ndjamenia.

In a statement issued today, it added that its forces had inflicted heavy losses on Ibri troops and killed many mercenaries.

Armed Forces Leader Receives Lebanon's Hawi
LD110953 Tripoli JANA in English 0855 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Abu Bakir Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, has received Mr. George Hawi, sec. gen. of the Lebanese Communist Party.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Senegalese Muslims
LD110945 Tripoli JANA in English 0832 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received a delegation of male and female Muslim guides of Senegal headed by "Al Haj Muhammad al-Mustafa Sie" [name as received].

In the name of the Senegalese Muslim youth, the head of the delegation expressed pride and appreciation towards the stances of the leader in support of Islam and Muslims.

Sudan

2 Foreigners Arrested for Photographing Troops
JN101231 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1044 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Feb (SUNA)—Military intelligence officials in Equatoria have arrested two foreigners who have been photographing Sudanese soldiers parachuting from an aircraft.

Citing Presidential Affairs Minister Salah 'Abd al-Salam Khalafah, AL-SUDANI today reports that the military intelligence officials arrested the two foreigners, confiscated their film, and sent them to Khartoum for investigation. The minister, however, did not disclose the identity of the two foreigners.

Constitutional Conference Preparations Under Way
JN101829 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1745 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Feb (SUNA)—Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm, minister of state for culture and information and the government's official spokesman, said that the political forces have taken a large stride toward convening the constitutional conference, the agreed upon rostrum for peace in Sudan—a stride represented by 16 political parties' signing the transitional Sudan Charter.

In a statement here today, the minister pointed out that a National Committee representing the parties that signed the charter has been formed. He added that this committee will be entrusted with holding contacts with the parties not represented on this committee; namely, the opposition National Islamic Front, which has not signed the charter, as well as the John Garang movement, with the aim of discussing preparations for holding the national constitutional conference and finding a peaceful and democratic solution.

The official spokesman added that the said committee will be the tool of the peaceful solution and also the tool for preparing to convene the constitutional conference. He went on to say that the government will not hold any contacts with the committee in this regard. He indicated that the National Committee will formulate its regulations and renew its contacts. He pointed out that the relationship binding the government to the committee is restricted to seeing government parties represented in this committee alongside other political parties.

Southern Council Chairman Abor Resigns 10 Feb
JN101806 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Feb (SUNA)—Mathew Abor tendered his resignation to his excellency the prime minister today, requesting that his resignation from his post as chairman of the Southern Sudan Council be accepted in light of the latest developments in the political arena—the developments that followed the signing of the transitional Sudan Charter.

His excellency the prime minister accepted the resignation and sent Mathew Abor a nice letter thanking him for his noble services while he occupied the post, and hoping that his offerings in the field of national action will continue to be displayed.

In accordance with this, the members of the Southern Sudan Council were relieved of their posts with the understanding that the governors of southern regions will continue to perform their duties until further notice.

Armed Forces 'Successful Raid' in Equatoria
EA111617 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic
1400 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH has reported that our Armed Forces carried out a successful raid on the Equatoria region on the Biliniang camp on the 8th of this month. The camp was destroyed, and the outlaw forces fled from the area after losing a substantial number of lives.

Reports from the area say that the battle lasted 4 hours. Our forces advanced to the enemy's frontline positions and attacked with artillery, destroying the heart of the enemy positions and compelling them to evacuate the area.

This battle resulted in the enemy losing 100 lives and suffering a large number of injuries, while we lost four martyrs. It is worth mentioning that the rebel radio attributed victory to their forces in this battle, relying on the fact that our forces had first launched an attack on the camp and then withdrew, afterwards returning and launching a second attack. The rebel forces started claiming imaginary victories in this battle at a time when the remnants of their forces were in the process of fleeing from the area of Biliniang.

In other military areas, our armed forces have continued repulsing the rebels in the areas of Keyala and Farajok. The forces of Keyala inflicted on the rebels the loss of 27 lives, among them an officer. In both areas quantities of Kalashnikov guns and artillery ammunition were captured as well as RPG ammunition and light weapons.

In the area of Kapoeta, our forces are containing the situation. The nation's forces are also progressing toward Bor and are clearing the area of outlaws.

'Hundreds of Rebels' in Kapoeta Killed 9 Feb
JN101217 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Feb (SUNA)—The Armed Forces are in full control over the area neighboring Kapoeta, Equatoria. It is expected that the liberation of Kapoeta from the rebels will be declared soon.

The above was announced by an official source of the People's Armed Forces General Command in a statement published today in SAWT AL-UMMAH, organ of the Al-Ummah Party.

The official source declared that a fierce battle on Tuesday 9 February between the Armed Forces stationed in Kapoeta and the rebels resulted in the death of hundreds of rebels while the others fled.

SPLA Reports Combat Operations, Successes

Ambushes on Juba-Bor Road

EA101629 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpt] SPLA forces of the Central South Sudan Zonal Command under the overall command of Commander Kuol Manyang Juk, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command, have conducted several successful ambushes and raids on the enemy forces on Mongalla, Jummayzah and other smaller stations along the Juba-Bor road. On 2 February 1988, units of Acuil Manyang Task Force ambushed the enemy troops at (Genar Lukeya) village between Mangalla and Jummayzah and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy in both men and material. Unconfirmed reports say the enemy commander at (Genar Lukeya) after the engagement ordered the military uniforms of his dead soldiers to be set on fire. [passage omitted]

Combat Operations 4-6 Feb

EA101634 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpts] On 4 February 1988, Task Force Number Two from the SPLA's Central South Sudan Zonal Command ambushed the enemy troops at Sudan Safari camp site. One Fiat lorry marked transit goods was blown up by landmine.

In a similar development, correspondent says that many enemy soldiers were killed by anti-personnel mines at Sudan Safari area and the remnants pulled back to Jummayzah. [passage omitted]

In another war development, units of Task Force Number Two commanded by Captain Deng (Agwany) Atem raided the enemy army post at Kondokoro on 6 February 1988 and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in both manpower and military equipment. [passage omitted]

On the same day, the same force of SPLA infiltrated to (Nyin Anyer) village where there is a concentration of enemy troops. Correspondent says that the SPLA missile missed a large aerial target in that village. Later the enemy troops attempted to attack the SPLA base at (Nyin Anyer) village but were beaten back, leaving behind three of their colleagues dead. Many others sustained injuries and the rest retreated in disarray. [passage omitted]

Wa'th Garrison Raided

EA111527 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Excerpt] SPLA forces of (?Moon) battalion under the direct command of Captain (Peter Doz) raided Wa'th town Garrison on 4th February 1988 and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy in both men and materiel. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Baccouche Interviewed on Relations With Morocco
PM091454 Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA
in French 1 Feb 88 pp 1,2

[Interview with Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche by Farida Moha in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpt] LE MATIN DU SAHARA: Despite the free trade agreement signed between Morocco and Tunisia, it must be admitted that bilateral trade relations are producing few results. Morocco exports goods worth 200 million dirhams to your country, and Tunisia exports goods worth some 70 million dirhams to Morocco. What is your assessment of bilateral cooperation?

Mr Baccouche: Our bilateral relations are excellent in all spheres. Most observers think that talking about bilateral relations means discussing commercial relations. I think that bilateral cooperation is more comprehensive. In view of the intensity of our political relations, inadequate commercial relations cannot be an accurate gauge of relations between our two countries. Our relations mean primarily confidence, the desire to have closer relations between us, and the desire to build the Maghreb.

LE MATIN DU SAHARA: The possibility of lifting the visa requirement for Tunisian nationals imposed 2 years ago is being discussed.

Mr Baccouche: The visa requirement ought not to have been introduced, it is an anomaly which, I hope, will disappear.

LE MATIN DU SAHARA: Prime minister, let us discuss the Maghreb question. To put myself on the same wavelength as my Tunisian colleagues, I read Hichem Jaïet's latest editorial in the weekly REALITES, which stressed that "the Maghreb idea is gaining ground, but no valid and lasting Maghreb building can or should be done without Morocco." In Morocco, we have the impression that things are moving in the Maghreb, but that there is more a desire for activism than a real desire to build this greater Maghreb. You have made a number of statements yourself.

Mr Baccouche: I think that talking about Morocco's isolation is misleading. There can be no Maghreb without Morocco. This view is held by Tunisians and also by Algerians. It is impossible to conceive of building the Maghreb, however limited, if it does not include Morocco. There is no hesitation about that.

LE MATIN DU SAHARA: You said on national television recently that the Saharan problem must be solved....

Mr Baccouche: The Saharan problem is an obstacle to Maghreb building. A solution must be found to this problem. How can we envisage forming the Maghreb without that problem being solved?

LE MATIN DU SAHARA: Some people are thinking about the possibility of transcending and overcoming it by Maghreb economic building....

Mr Baccouche: The Sahara is an obstacle. The United Nations is at present making efforts. Mr Perez de Cuellar has not yet given his verdict, but I think that these efforts, like others, will lead to solutions.

LE MATIN DU SAHARA: In the history of North Africa's development, the whole Maghreb rallied together under the blows of Roman, Spanish, and French colonization, against the foreign occupiers. At present the Maghreb is entering a turbulent period....

Mr Baccouche: His Majesty Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid have so far succeeded in preventing serious developments in the Saharan conflict. They have been able to control it. This is very wise, because a solution is still possible.

With regard to the Maghreb, it is a vital need, not just a political need. The economic and social problems which Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia are facing can no longer be tackled separately. We all think that the Maghreb is a matter of life and death for our region. Unless we start to build the Maghreb with determination over the next few years, our future will be threatened, seriously threatened, because we are faced with an increasingly united Europe, and blocs which are being constructed, and it is no longer possible to allow distrust to remain.

LE MATIN DU SAHARA: On Friday you received 'Abd al-Latif 'Ubaydi, Libyan representative to the Arab League. Many observers think that Libya will adhere to the treaty of concord and fraternity on its 5th anniversary on 19 March. Do you think this is likely.

Mr Baccouche: Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has always advocated uniting with the Maghreb countries and he has proposed this to the other Arab countries. From his viewpoint, he is still united with Morocco, he is still campaigning for this plan, as he did several months ago. He has proposed a document on unity to Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria. The treaty of concord and fraternity strikes us as a more practical framework. It recognizes peoples' sovereignty, advocates noninterference in external affairs [as published], and the recognition of borders. It is a code governing good-neighborly relations, which may be more suited to the real situation in the Maghreb countries than a unionist policy.

Col al-Qadhdhafi will visit Tunisia soon. We will examine and define the future of our relations in accordance with the talks he has with President Ben Ali. We will examine this proposed union, and the treaty of concord and fraternity, and it is only after the talks that we will have clearer ideas.

LE MATIN DU SAHARA: Relations between Tunisia and Algeria have developed greatly in the economic sphere, particularly with the plans for integration....

Mr Baccouche: We have experienced difficulties in our relations. Under President Bendjedid, these relations have improved for some years. We are trying to improve our relations with great pragmatism and common sense, and we are waiting for Morocco in order to move into a real Maghreb gear.

LE MATIN DU SAHARA: Morocco has no intention of adhering to the treaty of concord and fraternity....

Mr Baccouche: It must be said that the present problem is not whether or not to adhere to the treaty, but rather a realistic perception of our Maghreb solidarity which, if it is to be achieved, must create the right conditions of confidence among all partners in the region. The solution to the Saharan problem must boost confidence among the region's leaders. The worst thing would be for distrust to surface. The Sahara is more a problem of confidence than a real problem. Its psychological effects are greater than its real effects. The Sahara is a psychological block. We are all working to create the political and psychological conditions for more practical solidarity. In Tunisia, we are receiving Moroccan Prime Minister Laraki, then Col al-Qadhdhafi, and, in any case, we will remain in contact with Morocco. We will refer to Morocco in all development phases of Maghreb unity.

LE MATIN DU SAHARA: Is a Maghreb summit premature?

Mr Baccouche: We are not envisaging such a summit.

LE MATIN DU SAHARA: According to controversial reporting in the Algerian press, it would seem that the Algerian foreign minister's visit to Morocco has been postponed.

Mr Baccouche: I do not think it has been canceled. It is a timetable problem.

LE MATIN DU SAHARA: Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is making an official visit to Morocco on Tuesday. He has proposed a peace plan for the Middle East which has not been accepted in Washington. What is your analysis of recent events in occupied Palestine?

Mr Baccouche: The Amman summit was decisive in establishing an Arab consensus to tackle this challenge which threatens the Arab nation. By resuming its relations with the Arab countries, Egypt will be better able to help the Palestinian cause and to play a greater role in supporting Iraq. President Husni Mubarak is a man of goodwill.

LE MATIN DU SAHARA: It would seem that the United States, unlike Britain and the FRG, has only retained part of his peace plan, namely the truce, setting aside the freeze on Israeli settlements and preparations for an international peace conference in the region.

Mr Baccouche: This truce was not the most important aspect of the proposed peace plan, or at least it was only important compared with the other proposals for freezing the settlements and for an international Middle East peace conference. It is difficult to ask the Palestinians, who are asserting their right to existence, to observe a truce when those rights are being violated.

LE MATIN DU SAHARA: You recently had talks with President Saddam Husayn. Are there any developments in the Gulf war?

Mr Baccouche: Iraq has shown its readiness to end the war and make peace, which it earnestly desires. Meanwhile, the Iraqis are defending their territory. [passage omitted]

Baly Meets With Iraqi Air Force Delegation
LD052104 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Fraternal Iraqi-Tunisian relations and the facets of bilateral cooperation were the focus of a meeting this afternoon at the National Defense Ministry between Salaheddine Baly, minister of national defense, and an Iraqi Air Force delegation led by Colonel Shihadah Ibrahim. The talks also dealt with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's support for Iraq and the appreciation and respect that this country, people, and government have for the sovereignty of that sister country.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Norwegian Supertanker Hit Off UAE Coast 11 Feb
JN110626 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0600 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] A Norwegian supertanker, "Happy Kari," was hit in the Gulf this morning and fire broke out in the engine room. The tanker was hit off the UAE coast, in the southern Gulf region, an area where Iranian speedboats usually operate.

Syria Presents 7-Point Iraq-Iran Peace Plan
LD110944 Kuwait KUNA in English 0818 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 11 (KUNA)—Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' have submitted during their last month visit to the Arab Gulf, a seven-point Syrian plan on an end to the Iraq-Iran war, a local daily said here Thursday.

Daily AL-WATAN said that the plan, which was presented by the two Syrian officials during their visits to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, stipulates:

- 1-The formation of a mediation committee that includes United Nations and some neutral and Islamic countries representatives like Syria, Algeria and Pakistan. Their mission is to study recommendations and conditions submitted by the governments of Iraq and Iran.
- 2-The committee should divide its work and goals to include short-term and long-term goals.
- 3-The short-term goals include a pledge from both Iraq and Iran to immediately halt attacks on tankers, strategic targets and cities for a period of six months.
- 4-Raids and military operations launched by both belligerent countries should stop.
- 5-Both countries should agree to negotiate on conditions that could stop the war and find means of settling old differences on the rights of each party.
- 6-Following this, final solutions should be reached on the cause of the war and settlement of the strategic differences according to previous agreements between the two countries and in accordance with international law on neighbourly relations.
- 7-Concerning Iran's demand that Iraq should be responsible to pay for the reparation of the war damages, this could be discussed under the auspices of a mediation committee, if military operations were halted, the plan suggests.

Regarding the seventh point the plan suggests that war repairs expenditures should be paid by an international joint fund.

Kuwait

ARAB TIMES Interviews Afghanistan's Wakil
JN101739 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
6 Feb 88 pp 1, 4

[By Hamid Siddiqi]

[Text] The Kabul government has proposed to the UN mediator Diego Cordovez that the next round of UN sponsored talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan should be held on Feb 20 and indicated its intention to turn it into the final session of indirect negotiations, the Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil told the ARAB TIMES.

"The Afghan leadership has shown flexibility and assured the UN special envoy of its full cooperation in resolving the remaining issues for a political settlement to the Afghan conflict," Wakil added.

He quietly flew into Kuwait on Thursday at the outset of an Arab tour that will also take him to Libya, Syria and Jordan.

Wakil said he was carrying a message for HH [His Highness] the Amir from President Najibullah dealing with bilateral relations, explaining the recent developments in Afghanistan and expressing support to Kuwait's Arab and Islamic policies.

He said he will discuss the outcome of his talks with the UN mediator Diego Cordovez in Kabul before going to Geneva for the peace negotiation.

Wakil did not reveal whether any agreement has been reached on the time frame for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the main issue blocking the final settlement.

He, however, endorsed the official Moscow position that the Soviet troops could leave Afghanistan within 12 months.

The Afghan foreign minister bitterly criticized Pakistani President General Ziaul Haq for saying that he won't sign an accord with Najibullah, whom he accused of being responsible for killing scores of innocent people. Zia stated his position to THE WASHINGTON POST in an interview recently.

"He (Zia) did not take into consideration all the parties that have so far agreed for a political settlement," Wakil said.

Asked about the recent announcement by the mujahidin alliance to form a provisional government prior to the start of Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, Wakil said: "For the past eight years the opposition forces have been trying to form a government-in-exile but until now they have not succeeded nor have they the capability to take such a move."

On the other hand, he said, it was President Najibullah who in January 1987 offered a national reconciliation programme and also offered to set up a national unity government grouping all the opposition political leaders including the seven-group alliance led by Mawlawi Yunis Khalis.

Asked whether the former King Zahir Shah would be acceptable to the present Afghan leadership as the future ruler of the country, Wakil said: "This would be determined in proportion of the role he could play in ensuring peace in Afghanistan."

The former king has been the focus of attention of various diplomatic circles including the Soviets to install him as the compromise ruler in post-Soviet Afghanistan.

The Indian State Minister for External Affairs Natwar Singh met the former king in Rome yesterday for key talks on the future of Afghanistan.

Wakil said the Kabul leadership has very sincerely invited not only Zahir Shah but all other Afghan exiled leaders who could play a role in restoring peace.

"But Zahir Shah has certainly a key role to play," Wakil added.

He, however, said the fundamentalist (mujahidin) leaders were opposed to any future role for Zahir Shah. "He is acceptable to us."

Wakil strongly denied allegations that Afghan agents were responsible for a spate of explosions and terrorism in major Pakistani cities, particularly the areas bordering Afghanistan.

He said the Afghan Government was totally committed to the policy of non-interference in other countries', particularly the neighbours, internal affairs. "We believe in peaceful co-existence."

He said these kinds of events and actions were the result of infighting among the rebels based in Pakistan. "The Pakistani Government is unjustly blaming the Kabul government just to distort its image."

Wakil said the Afghan Government wants to have the best possible friendly relations with Pakistan because Pakistan is a very important neighbour.

Meanwhile, Zia said on Thursday the loss of life from bomb attacks in Pakistan was a small sacrifice compared to the numbers killed in neighbouring Afghanistan.

He told an Islamic women's conference in Lahore that the people of Afghanistan were not only fighting a war of independence against Soviet forces, but also defending the frontiers of Pakistan.

Wakil Departs 8 Feb

JN101740 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
9 Feb 88 p 3

[Excerpt] Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil left Kuwait yesterday after a visit barely mentioned by the government media, apparently to avoid stirring sensitivities because he represents a pro-Soviet government fighting Muslim nationalists, informed sources reported.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Wakil met with Kuwait's Foreign Minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, and other leaders to discuss the Afghan problem and the Gulf situation. [passage omitted]

Vietnamese Health Minister Ends 5-Day Visit

LD070951 Kuwait KUNA in English 0811 GMT
7 Feb 88

[By Anwar al-Gharib]

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 7 (KUNA)—Vietnamese Health Minister Dr. Dang Hoi Xuan Sunday said that his country is free of social disease, particularly AIDS.

However, the official indicated that diseases caused by the 30 years of liberation war against the United States and France, such as malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea and the likes, are rampant in Vietnam.

In an interview with KUNA Xuan, who concludes Sunday his official five-day visit to Kuwait, said that the visit aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation particularly in health fields.

During the course of his stay, the Vietnamese health minister reviewed with his Kuwaiti counterpart Dr. 'Abd al-Razzaq Yusuf al-'Abd al-Razzaq ways of upgrading health cooperation between the two countries.

Responding to a question, the official said that AIDS is not a serious problem in Vietnam because there is a system for screening blood donors in order to combat the fatal disease.

Regarding his meeting with His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, he said they reviewed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

He expressed satisfaction over the outcome of his talks with Kuwaiti officials and described the two countries' relations as "friendly."

During his visit, the Vietnamese health minister toured several health institutions including Addan Hospital and the National Cancer Center. He also visited the oil city of Ahmadi and recreational facilities at Qiran resort.

He expressed admiration over the places that he viewed, describing them as of "high standard."

PDRY

Oil Exploration Protocol Signed With USSR EA102217 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] A protocol between Democratic Yemen and the USSR in the area of oil and minerals was signed yesterday evening in Moscow. The protocol stipulates that, by mutual agreement, appropriate Soviet institutions will carry out complete exploitation of oil in the areas where oil has been discovered in the governorate of Shabwah.

The protocol includes oil exploration, drilling of wells, equipping of oilfields with necessary equipment, the extension of oil pipelines, and the training of Yemeni cadres in this field.

The protocol was signed on the Yemeni side by Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the [YSP] Central Committee, deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals, and on the Soviet side by Comrade Konstantin Katushev, minister of foreign economic relations.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni-Soviet talks recently held in Moscow between Brother Husaynun and Soviet officials have been crowned with the signing of this protocol. Brother Husaynun gave a high evaluation of the substantial aid provided by the USSR to Democratic Yemen in various fields. He also expressed his appreciation for the great interest shown by the USSR in the extent of economic development in our country.

For his part Comrade Katushev, minister of foreign economic relations, expressed his hope that the signing of this protocol will consolidate the friendship between Democratic Yemen and the USSR. He described the signing of this protocol as a new chapter in joint cooperation and a first step toward establishing unified oil installations in our country.

United Arab Emirates

Editorial Says Murphy Has 'Nothing to Offer' JN101435 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 7 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial: "What Shall We Expect From Murphy?"]

[Text] It is not wrong to listen to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Murphy. Let him say what he wants to, and let doors open wide for him to offer what he wants to during his current tour in the region.

What is totally wrong, however, is for us to expect him to offer a solution that we can accept or that satisfies part of a solution that we can accept.

He will have nothing to offer except for the information leaked on the U.S. Administration's view of what it calls the peace process. Regardless of diverging interpretations of this information, what has emerged does not point to any single positive element that will satisfy even one aspect of the Arab ambition for a just and honorable solution. The net effect of this U.S. view is a distorted copy of the Camp David accords, full of confusion and ambiguities. The Arabs have rejected Camp David, and the current developments in the occupied territories consecrate this rejection and make it categorical.

The aim of the current U.S. move, represented now by Murphy, is obvious. Israel is in a predicament. It is suffocated and cornered by the heroic uprising of our Arab people. It is obvious that the impasse is intensifying, and Israel's brutal measures have strengthened the uprising. Palestinian insistence on continuing the confrontation has not lost its momentum. On the contrary, it is increasing. Israel's only escape from this impasse is to halt or freeze the uprising, and the U.S. move is clearly aimed at this goal.

The introduction is a talk about the possibility of a political settlement. The headline is a call for reliance on this alleged U.S. concern about achieving a settlement. The main content is a call for calm so that the U.S. initiative can proceed and succeed. Otherwise, what is the meaning of the limited and short-term self-rule to be brought about by the U.S. proposal, if it is not accompanied by calm and refraining from confrontation?

Murphy's aim is clear: to salvage Israel, or at least to freeze its predicament until the cards have been reshuffled. So long as the U.S. commitment to Israel is total, and the U.S. stand—which is hostile toward the Arabs, their ambitions, and their interests—is firm and unchangeable, the new U.S. move will not go further than looking for what is best for Israel and its interests.

So, let us hear Murphy thoroughly and scrutinize every word he utters. Let us examine carefully the ideas that he will present. The only aim of this is to deepen our

conviction that wagering on a U.S. solution is a losing proposition. The inevitable outcome of this wager is a waste of Arab time, which gives more time to both Israel and the United States.

Yemen Arab Republic

Soviet Minister Leaves, Visit 'Successful'
JN101604 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Soviet Minister of Geology Yevgeniy Kozlovskiy left Sanaa this morning after a week-long visit to our country. In a statement to SABA news agency, the Soviet minister described the visit as successful and said that its concrete results will appear shortly.

He pointed out that an agreement on a draft proposal for cooperation in the field of geology, especially the creation of a geological map, has been reached with the officials of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

He said that during his visit he met with Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee. He added that during the meetings issues concerning bilateral cooperation between the two friendly countries were discussed.

He was seen off by Brother Ahmad Muhani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, the two under secretaries of the ministry, a number of the ministry's officials, a protocol official from the Foreign Ministry, and the Soviet ambassador in Sanaa, Veniamin Popov.

President Salih Receives Spanish Minister
JN101606 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at noon today Spanish Deputy Foreign Minister Fernandos, who handed him a written message from His Majesty Juan Carlos, king of Spain. The message deals with bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

The meeting was attended by Brother Ahmad al-'Iryani, foreign under secretary.

Talks Held With Australian Foreign Minister
JN101618 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] An official session of talks between our country and Australia was held in the Foreign Ministry this morning. The YAR side to the talks was led by Brother

Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, and the Australian side by William Hayden, minister of foreign affairs and trade.

During the session, the two sides discussed bilateral relations in the fields of economy, trade, and agriculture. They also reviewed the Middle East issue in light of the current developments in occupied Palestine. They stressed the need for achieving a just solution to the Palestine question, the recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state.

The two sides also discussed the developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the international efforts toward putting an end to it.

The meeting was attended on the Yemeni side by Brothers Ghalib al-'Adl, director general of the International Department in the Foreign Ministry; Marwan Nu'man, director general of the foreign minister's office; and Muhammad Taha Mustafa, secretary of the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. From the Australian side, the meeting was attended by the Australian ambassador to our country; (James Gaifed), chief of the department of African, the Middle East, and South Asia in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; (Belji Huton), advisor at the Australian Embassy in Sanaa; and other members of the accompanying delegation.

Meets With Prime Minister
JN111521 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, today received William Hayden, Australian minister of foreign affairs and trade. During the meeting discussions dealt with bilateral relations and means to promote them. The meeting was attended by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Allen Dewane Brown, the Australian ambassador in Sanaa; and the members of the accompanying Australian delegation.

Algerian Minister of Culture Departs 10 Feb
JN101817 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Dr Boualem Bessaieh, member of the Algerian FLN Central Committee and minister of culture and tourism, left Sanaa at dawn today after a several-day visit to our country, during which he attended the opening of the second Algerian cultural week here.

In a statement to SABA news agency, Bessaieh said he was glad he had visited our country, adding that the visit enabled him to see firsthand the aspects of the comprehensive development here. He pointed out that

he felt the spirit of brotherhood and constant cooperation and the firm determination to push the cooperative relationship in the fields of culture and tourism forward.

He said that the second Algerian cultural week, which is currently continuing its activities in our country, is a new beginning in promoting relations between the two countries in all fields.

Concluding his statement, he thanked officials of the Ministry of Information and Culture for the hospitality he and the delegation accompanying him were accorded during the visit.

He was seen off by Brother Hasan Ahmad Al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture and member of the Standing Committee; Brother Mutahhar Taqi, Ministry of Culture undersecretary; Brother Mutahhar al-Haythi, director general of the General Establishment of Tourism; and Mohamed Sabbagh, ambassador of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and dean of the Arab diplomatic corps.

Further on Visit by Bulgaria's Tanchev

Meets With Ramadan

JN101003 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1800 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of Bulgaria's State Council, today.

The first deputy prime minister stressed Iraq's stand toward UN Security Council Resolution 598, its implementation in accordance with the sequence of its clauses, and the Iraqi Armed Forces' readiness to defend their country's sovereignty and to annihilate the aggressors. He also spoke about the victories and achievements scored in Iraq in all fields under President Saddam Husayn.

Tanchev praised the great development in Iraq. He also reiterated the readiness of Bulgarian companies to contribute to carrying out development projects in Iraq. He expressed appreciation for the positive stands Iraq had adopted toward international initiatives and resolutions on ending the war, the most recent of which was UN Security Council Resolution 598.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with their progress in all fields.

Irrigation and Agriculture Minister Karim Hasan Rida and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Delivers Message to President

JN101611 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of the Bulgarian State Council. Tanchev conveyed to the president a message from Bulgarian State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov. The message deals with the two friendly countries. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the current international situation and ways to end the Iraq-Iran war, in addition to the Palestine question.

Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; the president's secretary; and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad also attended the meeting.

Concludes Visit, Leaves

JN101600 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of Bulgaria's State Council, left Baghdad today after leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Tanchev called for putting an end to the Iraq-Iran war, saying that ending the conflict is of great importance. He praised his meeting with President Saddam Husayn, affirming the promotion of bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Joint Committee With Vietnam Meets in Baghdad

JN081502 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT
8 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA)—Meetings of the fourth session of the Iraqi-Vietnamese joint committee began here today. The meetings will focus on a discussion of an expansion of trade cooperation between the two countries and the exchange of expertise and delegations. The Iraqi side is being led by Karim Hasan Rida, minister of agriculture and irrigation, while the Vietnamese side is headed by Nguyen Canh Dinh, water conservancy minister and a member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee.

Nguyen Canh Dinh valued Iraqi-Vietnamese relations and the results attained at previous joint committee meetings. The Iraqi side includes representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Trade, Labor and Social Affairs, and Industry, as well as from the Iraqi Central Bank and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. The Vietnamese side is comprised of the vice minister for foreign trade, the director of the Vietnam State Bank, and representatives and experts from the Council of Ministers and the Vietnamese airline.

Ramadan, Vietnamese Minister Meet

JN101039 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1800 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received the Vietnamese delegation led by Water Conservancy Minister Nguyen Canh Dinh today. During the meeting, Nguyen Canh Dinh conveyed greetings to leader President Saddam Husayn from Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and chairman of the State Council. He also expressed his country's appreciation for the developed relations with Iraq and its desire to promote and expand them in all fields.

The Vietnamese minister said that the Vietnamese people and leadership express their appreciation for Iraq's aid to Vietnam. He also reiterated his country's support for and solidarity with Iraq's defense of its sovereignty and its positive stand toward the peace initiatives and UN Security Council Resolution 598.

The first deputy prime minister reviewed the strong development of the Iraqi economy and the positive results of the administrative and economic revolution led by leader President Saddam Husayn. He expressed the Iraqi Armed Forces' readiness to crush any Iranian

aggression, and stressed Iraq's adherence to its peaceful policy and UN Security Council Resolution 598, as well as its rejection of any attempt to tamper with the sequence of its clauses.

During this meeting, the two sides discussed the results achieved at the Iraqi-Vietnamese joint committee's fourth session.

Attending the meeting were Irrigation and Agriculture Minister Karim Hasan Rida and the Vietnamese ambassador in Baghdad.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

JN101109 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
2000 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih received Vietnamese Water Conservancy Minister Nguyen Canh Dinh today. During the meeting, which was attended by the Vietnamese ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides reviewed relations of cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Earlier today, Iraq and Vietnam signed the minutes of a joint cooperation agreement for 1988-1989. The minutes include the reactivation of cooperation in economic and trade relations, an exchange of expertise, and participation in the trade fairs of the two countries. The minutes were signed by the leaders of the Iraqi and Vietnamese delegations to the meetings of the Iraqi-Vietnamese joint committee, Iraqi Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Karim Hasan Rida and Vietnamese Water Conservancy Minister Nguyen Canh Dinh. The signing ceremony took place at the end of the committee's 2-day meetings.

Vietnamese Delegation Departs

JN101121 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—The Vietnamese water conservancy minister and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad today after taking part in the meetings of the Iraqi-Vietnamese joint committee's fourth session, which ended in Baghdad yesterday.

During the meeting, the Vietnamese delegation held talks with a number of Iraqi officials. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways to promote them. The two sides also signed an agreement to bolster cooperation between Iraq and Vietnam in the economic, trade, and technical fields.

'Aziz Returns Home From SFRY Visit 10 Feb
JN110849 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0632 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad last night at the end of a 2-day visit to the SFRY. During the visit, Tariq 'Aziz met with SFRY President

Lazar Mojsov and conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to him. During the meeting, they discussed current developments in the region, the continuing Iranian aggression against Iraq, and the ongoing debate in the UN Security Council to implement Resolution 598. They also discussed the situation of the Nonaligned Movement.

Interviewed on Trip

LD110957 Kuwait KUNA in English 0810 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 11 (KUNA)—Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who concluded a visit to Yugoslavia Wednesday, called on the international community to put practical and effective pressure on Iran to force it to change its present position of continuing the war with Iraq.

In an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), 'Aziz, who is also a deputy premier, said his country is prepared to cooperate with the United Nations to implement the Security Council Resolution 598 in full, and described the resolution as "balanced, just and positive."

Answering a question on Iran's claims that it does not reject the Resolution 598, 'Aziz said Iran is not sincere in this position but it is maneuvering with the aim of winning time.

He reiterated his country's call for firm and decisive pressure on Iran, saying this is what can force Iran to accept peace.

He expressed belief that the objective of Iran out of maneuvering in accepting the resolution is to sow division among the members of the Security Council.

He contended that Iran will not accept peace voluntarily, but it will stop the war if the world put effective pressure on it.

On the talks he held here with top Yugoslav officials, 'Aziz said these talks dealt with the Iraq-Iran war and bilateral relations and described the visit as beneficial and fruitful.

He added that he sensed "deep understanding from the Yugoslav friends to the Iraqi position which calls for bringing the war in the Gulf to an end."

Reportage on 'Aziz Visit to Yugoslavia

For Yugoslav and Baghdad media accounts of the visit to Yugoslavia by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, including his arrival in Belgrade and talks with President of the SFRY Presidency Mojsov, see the 10 February Yugoslavia section of the East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Ramadan Notes 'Differences' With Moscow
LD111012 Kuwait KUNA in English 0839 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 11 (KUNA)—A ranking Iraqi official said Thursday that his country is ready to annihilate an Iranian offensive which is expected to take place next November, stressing that Iraq's situation is better than that of last year.

First deputy premier and member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council Taha Yasin Ramadan said, in an interview with daily "AL-ANBA" today, that Iran has been mobilizing its forces for the past few months for a major offensive, noting that an unsuccessful attack would worsen the already deteriorating economic situation in Iran.

He indicated that the Iranians are the Arabs' first enemy followed by the Israelis, saying that "the Persian enemy hiding behind Islamic slogans is able to rupture the Arab ranks in its current state."

Ramadan noted that Israel is the beneficiary of prolonging the Gulf war and affirmed that each time an Iranian attack on Iraqi territories is foiled, Israel does the task, citing the raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981 as an example.

The Iraqi official affirmed that there is continuous coordination between Iraq on one hand and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the other and he is convinced that both countries are well aware of Iran's intention.

On the U.N. Resolution 598 toward putting an end to the war, Ramadan stressed that his country is against any change in the Security Council call which was unanimously-endorsed last July 20.

He disclosed some differences between Baghdad and Moscow toward the situation in the region, expressing his country's dissatisfaction with China's supply of arms to Iran, which he said "does not serve the future of Chinese-Arab relations."

Ramadan reiterated Iraq's supporting stance of the Palestinian cause, hoping for a better Arab joint action to invest the current uprising in the occupied territories in the best possible way.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,016

JN101248 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,016 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The strong and determined men of our valiant Armed Forces continued their heroic activities in the operational sectors last night and today as follows:

1. Our heroic Air Force aircraft dealt two accurate and effective blows to two maritime targets near the Iranian coast last night. The first maritime target, a very large one, was attacked at 1905 [1605 GMT]. The second target, very large as well, was attacked at 2115.

Meanwhile, our brave aircraft flew 77 combat missions today against enemy personnel concentrations and weapon and equipment emplacements, inflicting important losses on the enemy. After flying these missions, all our planes returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. The brave knights of the helicopter gunships carried out 32 combat missions today. The aggressors suffered new losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment. The knights then returned safely with their planes to base, God be praised.

3. One enemy personnel was killed, one post was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. In the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces—two of the scoundrels were killed, one infantry position and heavy machinegun were destroyed, one shovel was damaged, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

5. One enemy infantry position was destroyed and one large vehicle was damaged in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. Two infantry positions and one machinegun were destroyed and one vehicle was set ablaze and destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. One enemy personnel was killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

8. Four enemy personnel were killed and four infantry positions were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

9. One of the scoundrels was killed, two enemy infantry positions and one single-barrel machinegun were destroyed, one ammunition dump was blown up, and one large vehicle was set ablaze and destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

Iranians Hit Liberian Tanker

JN101844 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1810 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] A Liberian oil tanker named the ("Peronic") was attacked by Iranian speedboats at dawn today while it was sailing from Ra's al-Tannurah Port on the Arabian Gulf to Singapore. The British Lloyds maritime insurance company, which reported the incident, said that the 38,795-tonne tanker was damaged as a result of the Iranian attack. It

noted that oil had leaked from one of its reservoirs. It added that the Liberian tanker is run by the Hong Kong-based Tanker Pacific (Manginta) Company.

Communique No 3,017

*JN111050 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1015 GMT 11 Feb 88*

[Communique No 3,017 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 February]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At 1035 [0735 GMT] today, the bold Iraqi planes simultaneously dealt a series of important blows deep inside Iran as follows:

1. The rapacious hawks launched a devastating raid on the extremely important electronics industries complex, on which the enemy relies in its war effort, located in the Shiraz area. Our hawks directed their bombs at vital targets in this complex, completely destroying them.

2. A number of our planes dealt a violent blow to fuel reservoirs in the Emam Hasan area, pounding their targets and setting them ablaze.

3. At the same time, other planes dealt a strong blow to a fuel processing plant [mahattat tahwil al-waqud] also located in the Emam Hasan area, setting their targets ablaze.

After carrying out these heroic missions, all our planes returned safely to base in God's care and protection. Hence, Khomeyni and the evil clique surrounding him should understand that perpetuating the war only means further destruction to them, further defeats to their remnants, and further disgrace and ignominy. Glory to you, O men of our Air Force—command, hawks, officers, and other ranks—for these great achievements that enrage the enemies and delight the people, the nation, and all friends. Praise be to God who supports us against the unjust ones.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command,
11 February 1988

More on Murphy's Mideast Shuttle Mission, Talks

Murphy Departs 10 Feb

TA101827 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Earlier this evening U.S. envoy Richard Murphy departed on his way back to Washington after holding talks with the prime minister, the vice prime minister, and the defense minister.

Shamir Briefs Likud

TA101825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] This afternoon the prime minister briefed Likud ministers about Richard Murphy's mission. Mr Shamir told them that he had requested additional clarifications about the U.S. ideas. Avshalom Ginosar reports:

According to reports on the meeting of Likud ministers, it seems that the prime minister's colleagues came out in support of his position in the talks with the U.S. envoy. Most of the ministers merely made additional inquiries, while some of them emphasized the points on which Israel would insist in the autonomy negotiations.

The prime minister stressed: It is clear that under no circumstances whatsoever will Israel agree to any international gathering, or as it is now called, an international event.

Mr Shamir went on to say: We will not agree to enter negotiations on a permanent solution without prior agreement about the length of the autonomy, as stipulated in the Camp David Accords. It seems that the Americans will press to have the length of the autonomy period shortened and for negotiations on a permanent solution to be held earlier.

According to the prime minister, however, Israel will have to insist on not having a shortened period of autonomy. The prime minister added: The substance of autonomy is in its being a period of transition until a permanent solution is reached, during which the possibilities of attaining a permanent arrangement should be examined. The duration of full autonomy cannot be skipped, Shamir said, and the shortened timetable demanded by the United States would hamper autonomy and its substance. In his opinion, recent events in the territories illustrate the need to adhere meticulously to the length of the interim period.

As said, the prime minister asked for additional clarifications, but it has yet not been decided from whom and when he will receive them.

Shamir Rejects 'Acceleration'

TA101608 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 10 Feb 88 pp 1, 18

[Report by political correspondent Hayim Shibi and Washington correspondent Erol Guiney]

[Excerpts] Last night Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir gave U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy the green light to go ahead with the U.S. move, at least as far as the initial stage of consolidating "the principles for an interim arrangement." [passage omitted]

"All the ideas I heard," Shamir said, "will allow me to work out a plan in anticipation of my meeting with President Reagan." This remark was meant to tell Murphy, and through him Shultz, that Shamir will not agree to an "undue acceleration" of the political process prior to his visit to Washington in mid-March. [passage omitted]

Leaders React to Initiative

TA110848 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 11 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Menahem Shalev and Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir has rejected major elements of the new American peace initiative, but has asked for "clarifications" from Washington in the hope that the U.S. plan might still undergo fundamental changes, informed sources in Jerusalem said last night.

Foreign Minister Peres and Defence Minister Rabin, who met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy yesterday, welcomed the American plan.

Sources close to the prime minister said last night that although Shamir had not given a green light to the timetable presented by the Americans, he was definitely interested in further U.S. efforts.

Shamir did not object to holding talks on the interim settlement, they said, did not object to the principle of a fixed date for talks on the final settlement, and was open to suggestions on an international [as published] for peace talks, provided it bore no resemblance to the international conference as proposed by Peres.

The prime minister's office said last night that if the peace process was to move forward, "Husayn—and not only Shamir—would have to make some concessions."

The U.S. has already sent out "feelers" on its new plan to the Soviet Union, and Israeli sources say that the Americans believe that Moscow will not derail their initiative. The proposals are to be discussed with the Soviets in detail in two weeks when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz travels to Moscow. The sources said yesterday that Shultz will apparently come to the Middle East after his Soviet visit.

Sources in the prime minister's office said last night that the U.S. would provide answers to Shamir's queries within a week or two, via the Israeli ambassador to Washington and the U.S. ambassador here.

Senior Labour ministers said last night after being informed of Shamir's objections that they were pessimistic about the initiative's prospects.

"Shamir has torpedoed two of the three pillars of the American plan—the international opening and the talks on the final status—and has only left the third pillar—the interim solution—which is most unpalatable to the Arabs," one minister said.

Reacting to Labour's expressed pessimism, Likud MK [Knesset Member] Ehud Olmert said last night that "Labour is behaving as if it is only interested in a peace plan if it is one proposed by Labour itself." Olmert said that Labour was falsely accentuating Shamir's nay-saying, while Murphy himself had stated that he was "encouraged" by his discussions.

Officials in Jerusalem said last night that the American plan, as presented in Murphy's talks here, was "substantially different" from the ideas presented to Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein during his meetings with Shultz in Washington three weeks ago. The officials said that the ideas presented to Rubinstein—which Shamir had welcomed at the time—had apparently been altered because of Arab objections.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak also distanced himself yesterday from some aspects of the American plan. Mubarak said in Cairo that "if it turns out the formula offered by the U.S. is self-rule, as reported, our sincere advice will be to develop it differently.

"Self-rule is an outdated formula that has been made meaningless by Israel through its faulty narrow interpretation of texts and its contradictory stands," Mubarak said.

In his meeting with Murphy last night, Shamir voiced objections to:

—The concept of an international opening for peace talks—now dubbed an "international event" by the Americans. Shamir told Likud ministers yesterday that he rejected the concept "in any shape or form," although he did not object to an international forum that would retroactively ratify an interim agreement.

Well-placed sources said last night that Murphy did not spell out the nature of the "international event." They said the U.S. was expected to come up with a proposal that would be "more than Shamir's agreement in October" to a Soviet-American call for talks, but "less than the London agreement of April, 1987" between Peres and Jordan's King Husayn on the "modalities" of the international conference.

—The proposal that negotiations on the final status of the territories would begin immediately after the talks on the interim solution. Shamir believes that this undermines the essence of the Camp David Accords, which specify that talks on the final status would begin "not later than the third year" after autonomy had been instituted. Shamir believes this period should serve as a "testing period."

—The American proposal to end linkage between the talks on the interim solution and those on the final settlement. Shamir believes that this proposal will undercut any Arab motivation to reach an interim solution, although he was told by Murphy that in such a case, Israel could delay the talks on the final status.

Sources in the prime minister's office continued to insist last night that the Americans had no concrete plan, "only a mixed bag of ideas—some of which they don't understand themselves."

They expressed confidence that after being informed of Shamir's objections, the Americans would substantially modify the plan. Mubarak appears to agree with this aspect of Shamir's thinking, saying yesterday that the American ideas "have not materialized or taken shape yet."

But the Foreign Ministry regards the American proposals as much more concrete. Sources close to Peres quoted Murphy as expressing hope that the "blend of an interim arrangement with talks on the final status" would "take the sting" out of Shamir's objections to an international conference.

MK Abba Eban, who also met Murphy yesterday, said that the U.S. envoy gave him the clear impression that the American effort would be a sustained process and that top-level visits to Israel would not occur only at six-month intervals.

He said that the Americans were certainly not in a defeatist mood over their initiative, since none of the parties had turned them down, and everyone was ready to listen to their message.

Eban described the American effort as "well-thought out, impressive, serious—and realistic."

The Foreign Ministry yesterday denied a report appearing in yesterday's LONDON TIMES which claimed that Israeli and Jordanian officials have been holding secret talks aimed at achieving an understanding on the interim arrangement.

Beilin Appeals to EC Envoys on U.S. Initiative
TA111128 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Dr Yosi Beilin, the political director general of the Foreign Ministry, met with ambassadors of the EC and asked for Europe's aid to guarantee the success of the U.S. political initiative.

Referring to the EC statement on the territories, Yosi Beilin said such declarations are not beneficial as long as they do not encourage the peace initiative. The director general added that the PLO has been shown to be a real burden to the Palestinian people, and its rejection of the new initiative even before the details became known proves that this organization is opposed in principle to the peace process.

Minister Navon To Visit Poland in April
TA101830 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
10 Feb 88 p A5

[Report by Nurit Dovrat]

[Text] Education Minister Yitzhak Navon will be the first Israeli minister to visit Poland since relations were severed in 1967. Yesterday Navon announced he will head the Israeli delegation which is to attend a knowledge competition to be held in April on Jewish heroism during World War II. This event will take place in commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Navon will travel with hundreds of youths who will join approximately 1,000 Jewish representatives from 30 countries.

Knesset members and Jewish notables from various countries will also attend the competition, which will be held at the end of 10 days of travel "in the footpath of the Jewish people's road of heroism and suffering in Europe," to include all the concentration camps in Poland.

Shamir To Visit Italy Despite Gorla Resignation
TA111111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The prime minister's office has announced that Mr Shamir will hold his scheduled visit to Italy next week as planned, even though the Italian prime minister has submitted his resignation. As the government in Italy is an interim government, there is no change in Mr Shamir's itinerary, the prime minister's office reported.

Arabs Urge Europeans To Help End 'Occupation'
TA110907 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 11 Feb 88 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Kafr Yasif—Israeli Arab leaders yesterday urged European states to put "pressure" on Israel to end the occupation of the territories and agree to an international peace conference.

The call was made in a statement by the committee which organized last December's general strike of the Arab sector and other activities in solidarity with residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The statement appealed to ambassadors of European countries to persuade their respective governments to apply pressure on Israel.

Asked what form the pressure should take, Kafr Yasif local council head Nimr Murgis, a member of the committee, said the committee wanted those countries which had verbally condemned Israel's policies in the territories to turn their words into deeds.

"It is not for us to try and advise the governments in Europe what they should or should not do," said Murgis.

The statement of the Arab leaders reiterated their belief that an international peace conference, with the participation of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, was the only way to restore peace and quiet in the territories.

Lack of Dialogue With Palestinians Criticized
TA101551 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
10 Feb 88 p 9

["The Elimination of the Local Leadership"—fourth installment in a series of commentaries by Ze'ev Schiff: "The War of the Territories: Lessons and Conclusions"]

[Text] It is hard to believe, but the Israeli Administration has never held a deep and thorough discussion on the issue of the Palestinian leadership in the territories, despite the fact that this is one of the most important questions, one which is now receiving additional significance in light of the disturbances. This is the key question facing us: With whom will we negotiate in an attempt to end the conflict?!

The suppression of this issue is perhaps the result of a mental block that many Israeli leaders have regarding the Palestinian issue, one that they passed on to most of the Israeli public. The usual excuse was that all of the Palestinians are PLO men. Therefore there is nothing to talk about!

Israel is willing to speak with almost everybody (Americans, Soviets, Egyptians and Jordanians), but it is completely ignoring the Palestinians in the territories and their leaders. This gave birth to the conception that the Palestinians are not a factor worth reckoning with, that the occupation and rule over another people are irreversible and that this occupation will not demand any price from us. This will be the situation forever and the Palestinians in the territories will not rise against us.

This concept has developed over 20 years. It is a policy not only of the Likud, but has been shared by large segments of the Alignment and the Zionist parties close to it. In many respects this concept is worse than that which led to the surprise in the Yom Kippur War. It is certainly more grave than Menahem Begin's slogan during the Lebanon War, "The land had rested for 40 years."

We are claiming, and justly, that there is no comparison between the events in the territories and the situation in South Africa. On one issue, however, the South Africans have an advantage: Pretoria has a clear policy—even if it is unacceptable and racist—concerning the blacks and their involvement in the society and the economy. Israel, on the other hand, has no policy. All it wants is to preserve the status quo.

The uprising in the territories and the unrest among the Israeli Arabs have ruptured this conception. It has already shattered several slogans of Israeli politics and information, such as that of the "enlightened occupation" or the "quality of life," which has turned into an excuse for both us and the U.S. Administration, because these slogans help us postpone the inevitable.

Suddenly, after the disturbances a new tone can be heard regarding the Palestinian leadership, but even now this tone seems false. Even Likud leader Shamir promises half-heartedly that he will agree to speak with a local Palestinian leadership. Yitzhaq Rabin has expressed the wish that from the uprising a local leadership will arise, one that will make it easier to negotiate with Jordan.

The defense minister, however, adds that he has always asked the Palestinian leaders whom he has met (to be precise: those who have been filtered for him): Can you be completely independent? Can you be partners to political negotiations with us? Rabin says these people answered that they cannot. At most they can be messengers between Israel and the PLO or Jordan. Rabin's conclusion was that no negotiations can be conducted with messengers!

The truth is that from 1967 up to the present, during which time Rabin has been against any political activity, Israel has destroyed every serious attempt to establish a local Palestinian leadership. By political activity I am referring not only to establishing parties and Palestinian conventions—I am speaking not only about refusing freedom of movement to Palestinian notables. Surprisingly enough, I am also referring to meetings of Israeli officials with Palestinian notables from the territories.

There was an attempt, for example, to prevent Ezer Weizman from meeting Palestinian notables. When he did meet them a representative of the coordinator of activities in the territories also attended. Obviously this order was not initiated by Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of activities, himself.

The excuse made for this was that they were trying to prevent the emergence of a PLO leadership. Throughout all the years, however, we have been unable to establish a pro-Jordanian leadership. One unsuccessful attempt was the establishment of the village leagues, which in any case could not represent the active urban population. Some of the people who were deported in the past could certainly be accepted today by Israel as authentic and

relatively moderate Palestinian representatives. Moderate notables claim that occasionally the Israeli authorities are "out to get them" just as they are out to get the extremists, adding that there are many examples of this.

To be convinced that this is indeed the situation, it is enough to hear what Brigadier General (Reserves) Efrayim Sne, former head of the Civilian Administration in Judea and Samaria, has to say. The farce regarding the departure of Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah—Shamir was against their departure until Washington made him an offer he could not refuse, enabling them to depart for a meeting with George Shultz—illustrates this.

It is ironic that there is a common denominator between Israel, the PLO, and Jordan regarding the Palestinian leadership in the territories. Each of the three—for its own reasons—is not interested in the rise of such a leadership. The PLO is intimidating local leaders to prevent them from exhibiting too much independence, because it does not want an alternative Palestinian leadership. With this in mind it is inconceivable that local leaders will come and tell us that they are shaking themselves free of the PLO, taking on themselves all the responsibility for negotiating in the name of the inhabitants of the territories, just as Rabin expects them to do.

Obviously we cannot expect the leaders of the uprising to come and say that they are willing to take the place of the PLO, and one can hear this in private talks in the territories. When Sne and his supporters claimed that we should cultivate notables with moderate PLO views—because this is the only way in which they can become legitimate in the eyes of the population—they were accused of being PLO supporters.

Sne was correct when he said that not all the notables in the territories lack an independent line compared to the PLO leadership abroad. We should not, however, require them to prove this by rising against the PLO. It takes a long time to build a responsible and moderate local leadership, and it certainly cannot be done under the pressure of the uprising. Such a leadership might rise if and when an autonomy is established. Unless this happens the process will continue, at the end of which we might lose the territories without achieving peace in exchange.

Palestinian Leaders Rivaling PLO in Unrest
TA101706 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
10 Feb 88 p 6

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Who Is in Control of the Uprising"]

[Text] The struggle between the IDF and the unidentified men in black keffiyehs for control of the Palestinians in the territories has ended, at least at this stage, with the victory of those in the keffiyehs.

The question was not so much who would close the shops, which are on strike anyway, but rather who would open them. The IDF tried to seize control by breaking locks and welding shutters open, but to no avail. The strikes were not crushed. Those who regulated the commercial strike at will by opening and closing the shops at fixed times, thereby proving that they were in control, belong to a secret group that distributed leaflets issuing orders to the merchants in the name of "The PLO—The Unified National Command of the Uprising [UNCU]."

If the leaflets are to be believed, the PLO controls the Palestinians, and the leaflets not only speak in the name of the PLO, but glorify and exult it as the only organization representing the Palestinians.

There is no doubt that the uprising in the territories increased the PLO's self-esteem. The Arabs once again consider it the spokesman for the Palestinian people. But when these pamphlets are read carefully and the positions they represent are analyzed, it seems that the PLO has a serious problem, as the pamphlets take positions on nearly every issue that does not match 'Arafat's policies.

There is no doubt that Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah went to Washington with the PLO's blessing, and expressed the PLO's positions in their meeting with Shultz. The start of a dialogue with the United States has been 'Arafat's desire for a long time, and Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah were basically chosen to represent the PLO not in talks with Israel, but with the United States.

This is not, however, how the issue was viewed by members of the UNCU. They painted eye-catching graffiti in the name of the UNCU, in which Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah were castigated as "traitors."

U.S. diplomat Richard Murphy arrived in our region last night. He plans to meet pro-PLO Palestinian public figures. The UNCU has begun to apply pressure on potential candidates not to accept invitations. The PLO has always supported meetings of this type, and this will be the first time that public figures, who have been regular guests at such meetings, might not come—not because of instructions by the PLO from outside the territories, but on orders of the UNCU.

'Arafat's pro-Egyptian policy and Egypt's support for the PLO are one of the guidelines in the present pan-Arab policy, but not according to the UNCU pamphlets, in which Egypt is presented as the enemy of the Palestinians.

If that is the case, who is behind the UNCU? Together with tough nationalist positions they have also adopted a Muslim religious line. If we assume that the UNCU was set up on elements already active before the uprising, we must logically assume that it is made up of a coalition composed of the remnants of the PLO's former youth movement, the "Shabiba", the Islamic Jihad, and groups belonging to the Palestinian left. They have adopted the PLO's name, not so much as a result of coordination and

agreement with the PLO, but because they basically identify with what they perceive as the organization's aims, and to capture the hearts of the masses. They identify with the PLO, but they do not heed its orders.

A matter of prime importance is how the international conference is viewed. 'Arafat supports the idea of a conference and his position is well-known, while the position of the pamphlets' authors on such an important point in the overall Palestinian demands is unclear. The position of the Islamic Jihad opposing the conference is expressed separately in leaflets denouncing the conference in the name of "The Islamic Command for the Uprising."

'Arafat's displeasure with the stand adopted in the territories in the name of the PLO has become more widely known following the disclosure of the identity of the powerful radio station calling itself "The Voice of Jerusalem," which broadcasts to the territories from the Druze mountains in Syria. This station broadcasts the contents of the pamphlets and has an amazing number of listeners. It does not belong to 'Arafat, but to his adversaries in the Palestinian camp—supporters of Ahmad Jibril. Jibril's popularity following the hang glider action has reached a level that should worry 'Arafat.

We explained previously why Islamic Jihad is opposed to 'Arafat. The reason the Palestinian left is opposed to 'Arafat does not need to be explained. What does have to be explained, however, is why the Shabiba, which is part of Fatah, is opposed to the PLO's policy.

It must be said that the Shabiba has caused the PLO trouble almost from the day it was set up some 5 years ago. When for pragmatic reasons the PLO permitted foreign lecturers to teach at universities even though they signed a declaration denouncing the PLO as a terrorist organization, it was the Shabiba that disobeyed the PLO, boycotting the lecturers who had acted according to the PLO's instructions.

Dr Sari Nusaybah was beaten up at Bi'r Zayt University by the Shabiba when, in coordination with 'Arafat, he held contacts with Moshe 'Amirav of the Likud, reaching a draft agreement with him to the satisfaction of the PLO leadership. The beating up of Nusaybah, perhaps more than anything else, shows what upsets the Shabiba and what it really represents.

The Al-Husayni-'Amirav agreement, which the young Nusaybah helped formulate, deals mainly with Palestinian ties to the West Bank, while little if any stress is put on the problem of the 1948 refugees. One of the important characteristics of the current uprising is the pressure exerted by the refugee camps on the towns, as though to warn the Palestinian cities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip against any political move that does not take the 1948 refugees into account. The message is also addressed to 'Arafat: Do not prefer Ramallah and Nabulus, take into account the Palestinians of Yafu, 'Akko, and Haifa as well.

The joining up of the refugee camps—which fear they have nothing to gain from the current political process—with Islamic Jihad, which opposes peace with the Jews in principle, is potentially very dangerous. It can be assumed that the PLO is currently debating how to direct the popular uprising. 'Arafat's group believes it should be led in a political direction, while the military wing might claim that the uprising should be given a military dimension according to the principle of armed struggle.

'Arafat's latest threats should be understood against the background of this debate, namely, if the Jewish settlers begin "to operate" then the Arabs will begin to use firearms. This can be seen as a message to Israel: Help me steer the uprising in a political direction—by widening the Cairo Declaration to include a halt to terrorism in the territories—by showing goodwill through controlling the Jewish settlers. (Even without 'Arafat's signals, Israel must keep a watch on the settlers groups which believe they must begin "to act" in order to encourage the creation of conditions that will bring about the desired transfer.)

By calling a cease-fire in the territories even before the fire breaks out, 'Arafat is signaling his willingness to join Mubarak's initiative. If the uprising is steered in a political direction the Palestinian towns will regain leadership, snatching it away from the refugee camps and the Islamic Jihad. An announcement on general elections for the town councils is the best way to give the reins back to the pragmatic leadership in the towns. This does not mean that the aspirations of the camps should continue to be ignored, but that a real effort should be made to recruit the 1948 refugees into the political process.

Rabin on Future Deportations, Settlers Violence
TA101753 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
10 Feb 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Yosi Levi, and 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Security elements believe that firm action should be taken against Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem, the trade unions and the newspapers' editorial boards, all of which are centers of incitement. They also believe that the deportations which have already been decided upon and which were postponed during the break in the disturbances approximately 10 days ago, should now be implemented.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in Hebron yesterday that the deportation of the five Palestinians who are suspected of incitement will be carried out when Israel finds it convenient to do so. [passage omitted]

During a visit along the Hebron-Al-Duhayshah route yesterday, Defense Minister Rabin said that only a few settlers and extremist elements in Israel have taken several steps against the inhabitants of the territories, but their acts are destructive. Rabin emphasized that

such acts unite the Arab population and increase the strength of the instigators. At the same time the minister emphasized that most settlers and heads of the Jewish municipalities across the Green Line reject the provocations by extremist elements in the settlements. [passage omitted]

Rabin Approves Qalqilyah Bypass For IDF Security
TA101812 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
10 Feb 88 p A2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has given his approval to start work on a road bypassing Qalqilyah. Rabin accepted the recommendation of senior officers who said that the IDF finds it difficult to guard the route leading from the Jewish settlements in Samaria toward Kefar Sava and the central part of Israel.

Recently there have been difficulties in passing through the town of Qalqilyah, which was under curfew following several violent disturbances.

Military sources say that in the last few days the IDF has taken several steps to improve the security situation along traffic routes in Judea and Samaria. An IDF vehicle passes and opens every route, making sure it has not been blocked to traffic.

IDF officers in the area have issued clear orders forbidding buses with school children from traveling without IDF guard. When such a guard is unavailable the buses remain idle and the students stay at home.

At the same time the IDF has increased its presence in several places prone to roadside trouble, and in several places there is even a permanent presence of several soldiers.

An IDF helicopter continuously flies over the traffic routes, determining if there are any problems which might endanger traffic. IDF sources say that the steps that have been taken cannot provide the settlers with foolproof security, but they do improve the difficult situation that has been created over the last few weeks.

Rabin Approves Appeals Board for Military Courts
TA101924 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has decided to embrace the recommendation of the High Court of Justice to set up an appeals board for the military courts in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Minister Rabin instructed staffers in his ministry to examine the various possibilities for setting up such a board and the organizational arrangements involved.

'National Committees' Directing Jerusalem Unrest
TA101854 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
10 Feb 88 p 4

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Text] "National committees" which took upon themselves to manage neighborhood affairs have been set up in the last few days in the neighborhoods of East Jerusalem following the municipality's order to suspend classes in Arab schools where neighborhood riots had been coordinated. It has been learned that an order was issued to set up similar committees in all the West Bank towns.

The members of the committees distribute the work among the demonstrators, prepare the tactics of the demonstrations, and plot out their routes. Two days ago, when Al-Maqasid Hospital needed blood donations for the wounded, the members of the committees were the ones who saw to this matter.

Bi'r Zayt University To Close Until March
TA101640 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
10 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, issued an order yesterday renewing the closure of Bi'r Zayt University from tomorrow until 10 March.

Bi'r Zayt University had been closed for 1 month in accordance with a previous Israeli military order.

90 Detainees Said Held in New Hebron Prison
TA101644 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
10 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Ramallah—The Israeli authorities recently opened a new prison in Hebron called "Hebron 2." The new detention camp is next to the old Hebron prison. The authorities are putting the detainees in tents prepared specifically for this purpose. It has been learned that about 90 detainees are in this jail at present.

Knesset Defeats No-Confidence Motions 10 Feb
TA101614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The Knesset has rejected six no-confidence motions submitted by opposition parties over the situation in the territories and the crisis in the health sector. Minister Hayim Corfu answered in the name of the government. Fifteen opposition members supported the no-confidence motions and 19 Knesset members voted against them.

Poll Results Show Public Leaning Toward Right
TA082000 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
8 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] Following are the results of a January 1988 poll on the public's voting trends, conducted by the "Telesqer" Institute for HADASHOT, under the supervision of Dori Shadmon.

The poll, conducted between 20 and 25 January, comprised a representative cross-section of 506 men and women aged 18 and above from all over the country.

The January 1988 results indicate a certain shift to the right compared to the December 1987 results (conducted prior to the disturbances in the territories), with the Alignment bloc suffering a certain setback (two mandates), the Likud rising by one mandate, and KAKH getting stronger.

Despite the trend that seems to be emerging from the findings, the majority of the people in Israel support a political solution involving a compromise on the territories and peace, as expressed in the following statistics from the January 1988 poll:

— The percentage of people who support a political solution and a compromise in the territories stands at 52.0.

— The percentage of those who support an uncompromising Israeli control over the territories is 38.7.

— The percentage of people who have no opinion on the matter is 9.3.

(Figure in brackets denotes the size of the blocs in the present Knesset)

	Forecast according to poll conducted end Jan 88	Forecast according to poll conducted beginning Dec 87
Alignment	44	46
MAPAM	1	1
Citizens Rights Movement	6	5
Center Party (Shi- nuy, the Independ- ent Liberals, the Liberal Center Par- ty)	2	3
Total Alignmen- t/Affiliated parties	53	55 (53)
Likud	38	37
Tehiya	5	6
Tzomet	1	-
Total Likud/Affi- liated parties	44	43 (47)
National Religious Party	6	6
SHAS (Torah Observing Sephar- dim)	5	5

	Forecast according to poll conducted end Jan 88	Forecast according to poll conducted beginning Dec 87		Forecast according to poll conducted end Jan 88	Forecast according to poll conducted beginning Dec 87
Agudat Yisra'el	2	2	KAKH	4	3 (1)
Total religious bloc	13	13 (13)	HADASH/Progressive List for Peace	6	6 (6)
			Total	120	120

Hamadah Says He Will 'Hold on to Schray'
NC101251 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] There is nothing new regarding the kidnapping of FRG national Ralph Schray. Informed sources disclosed to the Voice of Lebanon today that the Syrian Military Command has received a written message from 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah, who is accused of planning the kidnapping of Schray. In his letter Hamadah tells the Syrian Command to stop searching for Schray or applying pressure through political and diplomatic channels. These efforts will lead nowhere, Hamadah declares, because he intends to hold on to Schray.

The sources said that the letter explains that the kidnapping was not directed against Syrian security but against the FRG Government, to pressure it to stop the trial of the Hamadah brothers. The sources also said that the letter, which is shrouded in secrecy, was addressed to the Syrian Command before verdicts were handed down by the courts of Hesse and Duesseldorf and before Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an returned to Damascus.

Solution to Hostage Issue 'Matter of Time'
NC111013 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 8 Feb 88 p 7

[Text] Sources close to Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, have emphasized that the solution to the issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon has become a matter of time. The sources point out in this respect that the endeavors and efforts being exerted have given rise to optimism about finding a happy ending to this issue.

The sources note that hostages of various nationalities, whether American, French, or any other, will be released only when the three Iranian hostages who worked at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut and disappeared at the Al-Barbarah barrier in 1981 are released.

The sources did not say if the foreign hostages will be released at once or at intervals. The sources also declined to specify an approximate date for the release of the hostages, only that "the solution of the issue is only a matter of time."

The sources said that the hostages, including Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, are in good health. Finally, the sources declined to say if their information derives from contacts made by the deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council or from certain other sources.

IRA Chief Claims UK Kidnapped Irishman Keenan
NC111029 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 8 Feb 88 p 6

[Text] Some intriguing information has been revealed in the case of Irishman Brian Keenan, who disappeared in Lebanon 2 years ago, concerning a 24-hour visit which a delegation of the secret Irish Republican Army [IRA] paid to Beirut last December to investigate Keenan's fate.

According to this information, the two-man delegation, which included Joe Austin, chief of staff of the IRA, almost fell into an ambush. During their visit, the members of the delegation were scheduled to stay at a hotel in the Al-Hamra area that is managed by a group known for its links with and involvement in British intelligence. Upon realizing this, friends of the Irish delegation, in cooperation with a security organ, found another hotel for the delegation to stay in.

The ambush was laid for the delegation after British intelligence had succeeded in preventing it from traveling to Beirut by air with the help of the public security organ and its director Jamil Ni'mah, who refused to give entry visas to the Irishmen. Consequently, the Irishmen had no alternative but to come to the Lebanese capital overland.

The important thing in this regard is what the IRA chief of staff told one of his Lebanese friends—that he was quite convinced that it was Britain that had kidnapped Keenan, the IRA representative in Lebanon, especially since no one has claimed responsibility for his abduction so far.

Interior Minister on Elections, Other Issues
PM101025 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
5 Feb 88 p 14

[Interview with Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi by Shirbil Zughayb in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: What is the truth about the reform plan reported by some circles and said to have been submitted by Rafiq al-Hariri [well-known businessman] to President al-Jumayyil? How true is this?

Al-Rasi: I personally tend to consider it a maneuver. We have read an account by visitors to the palace quoting the president of the Republic as saying that he has not accepted the plan and will not accept any plan which makes the president of the Republic a "mirage." So the president of the Republic has rejected the plan in question.

AL-HAWADITH: What are the main outlines of the plan?

Al-Rasi: I am not acquainted with the plan, although it is being talked about by the people. Consequently, I consider it a political maneuver.

AL-HAWADITH: Reconciliation before the presidency and the presidency before reconciliation. These are two current slogans. In your opinion, which is closer to being implemented?

Al-Rasi: In my opinion, the one closer to being implemented is the election of a new president followed by the discussion of reconciliation. A conversation took place between me and one of my politician friends who is urging reconciliation before the elections. I asked him if he was ready for and hopeful of reconciliation with the current president, and his immediate response was: No.

I said that there ought to be a president who inspires you with confidence, that this can be achieved with him. The friend was convinced by my argument, even though he persisted in repeating his slogan concerning the subject. If we insist on raising the slogan of reconciliation before the presidency we will fall into a trap and into the plan of those who are seeking to divide and fragment Lebanon; the institution of the presidency is a fundamental part of our democratic parliamentary system, and the placing of any obstacles in the way of electing a new president and causing a vacuum at the center would expose the country to the division I mentioned.

AL-HAWADITH: Some fear that it may not be possible to hold presidential elections in view of the current situation in the country. Is this apprehension justified?

Al-Rasi: There is no doubt that apprehension does exist; what is presently required is not a president to everyone's satisfaction, because then a president will be brought in to direct the crisis, and what is required is a president to settle the crisis, a president who possesses viewpoints and resolution. Therefore, there must be a battle, and all we desire is that the battle be democratic; the Lebanese people have had their fill and are tired of threats and heroics.

AL-HAWADITH: However, if an end is not put to the threats before the elections, they will either disrupt the elections or have an influence on determining who is elected president. So what is your opinion?

Al-Rasi: This is natural. Consequently, I said that apprehension does exist concerning disruption of the elections, which will either result in internal and external political pressure on those indulging in heroics and making threats or put an end to them by means of the legitimate Lebanese forces.

AL-HAWADITH: Are the legitimate Lebanese forces capable of handling such a task in view of the current situation?

Al-Rasi: Yes, if a political decision is made.

AL-HAWADITH: Who is the political decisionmaker who issues orders to the legitimate forces?

Al-Rasi: The decision must emanate from the Supreme Defense Council chaired by the president of the Republic, with the prime minister as deputy chairman and the defense, interior, and finance ministers as members. We previously urged at a government meeting in the Chamber of Deputies that the Lebanese Army be brought in to assume responsibility for security in administrative Beirut. Unfortunately, this request has not been met, and I can now mention three members of this council on whose behalf I speak: Defense Council Deputy Chairman al-Huss, Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran, and

myself. We are agreed that the Army should be brought in to assume responsibility for security not just in administrative Beirut but throughout Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: Many are talking about changes which may happen in March and could influence the battle for the presidency. Do you anticipate changes? And are they local or regional?

Al-Rasi: I do not know what they are talking about and I am not expecting any fundamental changes in March, either internal or external. And what could happen internally? In my opinion, two things could happen: First, what we mentioned in the previous question, which constitutes a distinctive change, and, second, the formation of a new government. In view of the current situation and the realities on the ground, no government can achieve anything. I think it unlikely that a government will be formed in March, and I was misquoted as saying that I expected the formation of a government a month before the date of the presidential elections; what I said was that the president of the Republic may form a new government 1 month or 15 days before the end of his tenure. This is if presidential elections do not take place.

AL-HAWADITH: In other words, we will be faced with a transitional government which must be headed by a Maronite. Who would be candidates for the position?

Al-Rasi: First of all, why does it have to be headed by a Maronite? I reject this idea. Anyway, it is exclusively part of the president's powers in light of the constitutional provisions and the existing tradition.

AL-HAWADITH: Would you agree to the nomination of General Michel 'Awn [commander of Lebanese Army] as the head of such a government?

Al-Rasi: I prefer politicians to stick to politics, to the exclusion of military affairs, and the military to stick to military affairs, to the exclusion of politics.

AL-HAWADITH: What character traits do you see as essential in the next president of the Republic?

Al-Rasi: We would like a president who enjoys the confidence of all the Lebanese; a president who makes decisions and carries them out; a president of all the Lebanese and not just of a group or sect; a president determined to abolish all the militias and extend the state's authority to all Lebanese territories; a president who would work to liberate the south from the Israeli enemy; a president who means no when he says no and means yes when he says yes.

AL-HAWADITH: Do these qualities apply to [former] President Franjiyah? And do you think that he will eventually put himself up as a candidate for the presidency of the Republic, and on what basis?

Al-Rasi: That question ought to be put to President Franjyah. For my part, I would merely comment that the task borne by the new president will not be an easy one. If President Franjyah agreed to assume the task, it would be a great sacrifice for him.

AL-HAWADITH: In your view, is the U.S.-Syrian dialogue in the interest of President Franjyah or someone outside the current known political club in Lebanon?

Al-Rasi: I cannot answer your question because I know that a U.S.-Syrian dialogue does exist with regard to Lebanon, but I do not know the details of what is going on in the dialogue. If we listen to U.S. Ambassador in Beirut John Kelly, there is no dialogue; the United States is merely acting as mediator between Lebanon and Syria.

Soviet Envoy Refuses Comment on Murphy Tour
NC101715 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Vasilii Kolotusha has refused to comment on Richard Murphy's tour of the region. He said: The coming Soviet-American summit will deal with regional conflicts, but I do not know if the Lebanese issue will be included in its agenda.

In statements he made following his meeting this afternoon with acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, the Soviet ambassador said that discussions had dealt with international affairs in light of Soviet leader Gorbachev's statement on the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Al-Huss Meets With Czechoslovak Ambassador
NC101310 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has met with Czechoslovak Ambassador Karel Fiser. They reviewed the political situation in Lebanon and the region, as well as bilateral relations. They also discussed support for Lebanon's stand in the United Nations.

9 February Unit Claims Attacks on Syrian Forces
NC111210 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for two military operations against the Syrian occupation army in the past few hours. The first operation was against a joint position held by the Syrian Army and the Arab Democratic Party in Jabal Muhsin in Tripoli. In the operation a rocket hit the position, wounding a Syrian soldier. In the second operation an explosive device detonated near a Syrian occupation army position near Al-Mallulah Circle at the northern entrance to Tripoli.

'Warplanes' Reported Over Coast, Mountain
NC101450 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] According to reports just received, warplanes [not further identified] flew at low altitude over the coastline and the mountain before 1600 today.

Israeli Overflights, Mock Raids Reported
NC110905 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been conducting intermittent mock raids over Sidon and its camps since 0930 today, drawing antiaircraft fire. Meanwhile, Israeli aircraft flew over Al-Nabatiyah at a low altitude this morning.

Ba'th Party Supports DPRK on ROK Plane Crash
JN061342 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has vigorously denounced the anti-DPRK threats and hostile maneuvers by U.S. imperialism. An official of the Foreign Relations Office at the National Command pointed to attempts to implicate the DPRK authorities in the blowing up of an ROK passenger plane and the pressures being exerted on the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on the DPRK. The official said in a statement that the Ba'th Party, fully aware of the U.S. policy aims of hegemony, regards this move as part of the imperialist American policies seeking to dominate various regions of the world through threats and a show of force. He voiced support for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Syria for the people of the DPRK in their struggle to repel aggression and defend their soil.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Iraqi Media Campaign
JN100945 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0545 GMT 10 Feb 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Iraqi Regime: A Suspect Role and a Rancorous Campaign," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: What does the Iraqi regime want? This question is being asked by every Arab citizen in the greater Arab homeland as he watches that regime escalate its campaign of slander and vituperation against Syria and its militant and principled stands. It is escalating its campaign at a time when Syria is exerting persistent efforts to bolster the march of joint Arab action in confronting the Zionist enemy, and to strengthen the will of the Arab struggle to guarantee support for our people's uprising in the occupied homeland and to confront the U.S.-Israeli conspiracy aimed at foiling and containing this uprising.

Through a responsible Syrian spokesman, Syria has emphasized that it is careful not to be dragged into marginal battles and media campaigns, because it believes in the need to clear the Arab atmosphere and create the proper circumstances to support the uprising in the occupied territories, mobilize the Arab nation's potentials and resources in order to confront the Zionist threats, and keep the Palestine question in the forefront of international and Arab concerns.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This serious and sincere pan-Arab approach has evoked the Iraqi regime's rancor and anger because this effort is aimed at foiling the imperialist-Zionist scheme whose implementation is assigned to the Iraqi regime. Therefore, the Iraqi regime had no choice but to escalate its vituperations and slanders against Syria.

The Iraqi regime attacks Syria because it is the basic force confronting the Zionist-imperialist dangers against the Arab nation, its territory, and its existence. Moreover, the Iraqi regime attacks Syria because it has prevented the expansion of this insane, devastating war which this regime launched against Iran, and because Syria's efforts have prevented the involvement of other Arab states and the exhaustion of their resources.

The Iraqi regime seeks to create Arab hostility against Iran in order to cancel the Arab conflict with Zionism and to force Iran to abandon its support for the Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy, and for the liberation of Palestine.

In conclusion, AL-THAWRAH says: The Iraqi regime's frenzied campaign against Syria and its slander against Syria's principled stands are useless exercises because this campaign, which is based on delusion, is the best expression of the impasse reached by the Iraqi regime—a regime which has lost its control and its ability to plan for the future and which is well known for its suspect connections with Zionist-imperialist schemes aimed at splitting the Arab ranks and diverting Arab attention from the basic battle against the Zionist enemy. It is not a pan-Arab role. Media campaigns will never be able to conceal this situation from the Arab masses throughout the greater Arab homeland.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Rule Out Peace Until Soviet Withdrawal
*OW110545 Tokyo KYODO in English 0520 GMT
11 Feb 88*

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 11 KYODO—Afghan resistance leaders have ruled out any possibility of an end to the war in Afghanistan until all Soviet troops have been withdrawn and the Government in Kabul has fallen.

The Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin (IUAM) issued a statement after an eight-hour meeting Wednesday claiming that the Afghan resistance movement has agreed on the basic principals for establishing an interim government of its own in Afghanistan.

The statement called upon all Afghan Muslims living inside or outside Afghanistan to be ready to take part in the reconstruction of their homeland.

Guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar told a press conference the IUAM would not accept any political settlement from Geneva and that fighting would continue until the Soviets have withdrawn and the Afghan people are allowed to form their own government.

Hikmatyar said the plan for a transitional mujahidin government has already been devised and would be announced at a later date. However, he said the proposed government would be broad-based and could be ready before March 2, when Pakistan and the Kabul Government resume indirect peace talks in Geneva.

He added ruling communist party members have been invited to get in touch with the IUAM if they so desired, but that there are about 1,000 Afghan communists who could never be forgiven their war crimes. These people must leave with the Soviet forces, he said.

Vow To Continue Fighting

*BK101626 Hong Kong AFP in English 1616 GMT
10 Feb 88*

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 10 (AFP)—A seven-party Afghan resistance alliance ruled out any compromise with the Kabul regime Wednesday and said it would continue to fight until the last Soviet soldier is withdrawn from Afghanistan.

The mujahidin alliance, in a communique issued after two days of talks, also called on Moscow to pull its troops out of Afghanistan "immediately and unconditionally."

Rejecting negotiations with the regime of Afghan President Najibullah, the alliance said: "All that is happening in Afghanistan today is the result of the Soviet presence and imposition of a puppet regime on the Afghan people."

The communique was issued after two days of talks between mujahidin leaders on the latest developments, including Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's announcement Monday that Soviet troops could withdraw from Afghanistan within 10 months if agreement is reached in United Nations-mediated talks in Geneva.

The first session between the mujahidin leaders began shortly after United Nations special envoy Diego Cordovez announced that Pakistan and Afghanistan had agreed to resume talks in Geneva on March 2.

During Wednesday's eight-hour session, the Afghan resistance leaders also unanimously agreed on the formation of a transitional government in Afghanistan which would be led by the mujahidin alliance, the communique said.

The transitional government to be set up "soon" would include Muslims inside Afghanistan, refugees and intellectuals abroad, it said.

The communique invited all "Islam-loving" Afghans in the Army, police and administration to declare their loyalty for the transitional government.

It also invited intellectuals, experts and technocrats to return to Afghanistan to participate in the reconstruction of the country.

Commentator Criticizes Extremists' Actions
*LD101849 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Commentary by unidentified BAKHTAR commentator]

[Text] Despite all the efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan to seek a peaceful solution to the events around Afghanistan, to end the war, and to eliminate the causes of fratricide in the country in light of the policy of national reconciliation, direct interference in our internal affairs by certain foreign countries, especially their intelligence services and networks, still continues.

The illegal dispatch of military advisers and intelligence instructors to the Republic of Afghanistan by these countries causes further bloodshed and tears among the families of our country. Mostly, however, such uninvited guests meet a very tragic fate. Many of these agents have been captured by our heroic security forces. The best example of this is the fate of Osman Demir, an agent of the FRG intelligence service and an expert and instructor in the use of the Stinger weapon, who was captured in Qandahar Province. The public was informed about this by the BIA.

According to reliable information, there are still foreign instructors within the extremist and antigovernment groups in some regions of the country who have illegally entered the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan. Their main duty is to teach terrorist activities, to gather

military information, and to recruit Afghans for the collection of information about our country. These instructors teach extremist and counterrevolutionary groups how to use Stinger missiles and they themselves take an active part in attacking passenger aircraft. The part played by advisers who have links with the CIA is more noticeable. As a result of these criminal actions, innocent passengers—children, women, and old people—are killed.

According to reliable information gathered by responsible authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, extremist groups led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar had intended to fire anti-aircraft missiles at the plane carrying Diego Cordovez, special representative and deputy general secretary of the United Nations, when he was flying from Peshawar to Kabul. Fortunately, this criminal action was prevented as a result of broad security measures.

The extremists thought that by taking such actions they could create obstacles to the peaceful political solution of events around Afghanistan and cause the failure of the Geneva talks. However, the constantly vigilant security forces of the country can foil any kind of conspiracy or hostile actions by the enemies and extremists who are acting on the instructions of the intelligence services of the imperialist countries.

Obviously, responsibility for the perpetration of such terrorist actions lies with the leaders of the extremists and their supporters.

Amin Meets With CSSR Finance Delegation Head
LD110726 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] At the Council of Ministers' Gol Khanah Palace today, Deputy Finance Minister Fransk Pavelka, the head of a Czechoslovak delegation, met with Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, first deputy prime minister. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the development of trade and economic relations. Bohuslav Handi, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in Kabul, was also present.

Keshtmand Addresses Asian Students Seminar
LD110859 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 10, BAKHTAR—Inaugurating the seminar "Education, Development and Society" and consultative session of Asian Students Information Centre [ASIC], Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, on behalf of the leadership of the PDPA and the government and people of Afghanistan, congratulated the participants of the seminar on holding this important seminar.

This is for the first time that the (?reliable) representatives of youths and students from different countries of the world began their face-to-face discussions in an open

atmosphere. These deliberations, Premier Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand added, are taking place in the direction of peace, good understanding and mutual cooperation.

The seminar is held at a time when the inhabitants of our planet are linked with each other despite numerous similarities and dissimilarities and they are in need of cooperation more than ever before. These inter-relations, he indicated, made this broad world interrelated to each other to such an extent that the effects of every important event is inevitably felt in another part of the world.

Afghanistan, Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand added, as a peaceful country with free judgment on the world issues believes that the tendency to open the knots, elimination of distrusts and the solution of human difficulties are logical and correct only through talks and understanding.

Foreign intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and imposition of the undeclared war on the Afghan people has created a bed of tension in our region. This process cannot be ineffective for ensuring peace in the region, Keshtmand said.

Despite the continuation of foreign intervention in the internal affairs of our country, Keshtmand went on to say, on the basis of the will and determination of our people we will continuously follow realisation of the policy of national reconciliation.

The policy of national reconciliation is the main objective of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan for the solution of national problems on the basis of the philosophy of new political thinking which considers the right to live and preservation of world peace as the highest human value, Keshtmand said.

We have provided conditions for the creation of a coalition national unity government. For this purpose we have proposed 28 state higher posts to the opposition, he said.

Evaluating the gains of the policy of national reconciliation so far achieved in the country, the prime minister further said that the Republic of Afghanistan as an independent and free state with the endorsement of its new Constitution has opened a new path for the maintenance and expansion of contacts in international scale and especially with the Islamic states and member states of the Non-Aligned Movement which is gaining more prestige and credit for the Republic of Afghanistan in the world arena, Keshtmand further said.

We have used every opportunity to improve and expand our relations with all Asian and other countries of the world, especially with Islamic and the neighbouring countries. We want to establish friendly relations with Iran and Pakistan according to the principles of good

neighbourliness. In spite of our sincere efforts to improve relations with Pakistan still the territory of that country is used as a training centre of the extremist armed groups against the Republic of Afghanistan, said Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand.

Pointing to the process of Geneva talks, Keshtmand said: "The final victory of the Geneva talks and ensurance of peace in our country which has firm links with the world peace process depends on goodwill of Pakistan and reliable international guarantees on cessation of external interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and its non-resumption."

Reminding the flexibilities made by the Afghan side, the prime minister mentioned the statement released by the Afghan president, Najibullah, and the statement of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in which the time-frame for the withdrawal of the Soviet limited contingents declared ten months.

He said, "It shows our firm decision and goodwill for the solution of this problem."

The titles "Education, Development and Society" are the subjects the resolution of which is a part of undelayable task to be carried out by the people's sovereignty, organisations and the Afghan people, the prime minister pointed out.

After accounting the damage inflicted as a result of nine-year long undeclared war, the prime minister said, right now 16 vocational schools, 15 teacher training institutions, 30 technical schools and 17 thousand students are studying in 28 faculties in Afghanistan.

The prime minister described the ASIC forum as a manifestation of militant solidarity of students, youths, organisations of the participating delegates to the forum with the righteous struggles of Afghan people for establishing peace and building a new Afghanistan.

Keshtmand Visits Jowzjan Province, Meets Leaders
LD102206 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Afghan Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand took part yesterday in a meeting of the provincial leadership of state departments and institutions of Jowzjan Province in that province's capital.

At the meeting, the chairman of the executive committee of the people's representatives of Jowzjan Province read a report on the socioeconomic and political situation. The meeting was also attended by the ministers of interior, higher and vocational education, and irrigation and water resources, and the president of the Council of Ministers office of the northern areas. Afterward the participants in the meeting discussed the report and advanced specific views and proposals on improving work and alleviating problems.

At the end of the meeting, in a comprehensive and detailed speech, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand drew the attention of the Jowzjan officials to improving and accelerating their duties and gave specific instructions on alleviating problems to the relevant officials.

BIA reports that Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand and his accompanying delegation later visited the Jar Qudug oil and gas refinery complex, where he was provided with information on every part of the complex. BIA reported from Sheberghan that yesterday, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand and his delegation had arrived at the capital of Jowzjan Province. He was warmly welcomed on his arrival at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Sayyed Nasim Mayhanparasat, provincial leaders, and elders.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand returned to Kabul last night.

Briefs

Armenian Health Cooperation

This afternoon a delegation from the Armenian SSR Health Ministry of the Soviet Union met with Sher Bahadur, public health minister of the Republic of Afghanistan. In a meeting attended by deputy ministers and heads of the Public Health Ministry central departments, they discussed direct cooperation between the Armenian SSR and Lowgar and Ghowr Provinces in the public health area. The Armenian SSR delegation arrived in Kabul today for talks on direct cooperation in the public health field between Lowgar and Ghowr Provinces and the Armenian SSR. They were greeted at Kabul international airport by the Ministry of Public Health deputy minister for international affairs and the economic counsellor at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. [Text] *[Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Feb 88 LD]*

Direct USSR Railway Links

Mazar-e Sharif, February 9, BAKHTAR—The protocol on direct railway links and the transfer of goods and materials from the Soviet Central Asian republics to Hayratan port of Afghanistan was concluded in Hayratan city of Balkh Province. By setting up a unified railway department, on the basis of this protocol, transportation and the delivery of goods and materials in the port of Hayratan would be largely facilitated. [Text] *[Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 10 Feb 88 LD]*

Bangladesh

Reportage on Local Council Elections

Turn Out 'Brisk'

BK101636 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The union parishad [council] elections were held in the country today. Polling began at 0800 in the morning and continued till 1700 in the afternoon without any break. Counting of votes began immediately

afterward. Reports coming in from our representatives and correspondents from various parts of the country speak of brisk polling in most of the polling centers.

As already reported, over 18,000 candidates contested for the posts of chairman and over 115,000 candidates for membership of union parishad. There were over 20,000 polling stations. Necessary steps were also taken to ensure free and fair polling.

Jatiya Party Secretary General and Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hussain has said despite the antipoll campaign by a section of political parties, people turned out overwhelmingly at the polling booths today to elect their representatives in the union parishad elections. Talking to BSS in Dhaka today, he said there was great enthusiasm among the people. The unprecedented enthusiasm among the people in the poll is the testimony of the known democratic tradition of the country, he added.

Combined Opposition Party Chairman A.S.M. Abdur Rab has congratulated the people for taking part in the union parishad election. Addressing a rally at Namgati today, he said the spontaneous large-scale participation of the people in the poll is due to development activities in the rural areas with the introduction of upazila [subdivisional] system.

JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal] President Mohammad Shahjahan and General Secretary Nur-e Alam Ziku have also congratulated the people for taking part in the election.

Bangladesh People's Party Chairman Mohammad Shahjahan has said election is the only means for peaceful change of any government. At a workers meeting in Dhaka today, he said it is undemocratic to stop people from casting their votes in the elections.

Jatiya Janata Party Chief Sheikh Asad in a statement has called for shifting the Sangsad [Parliament] election date to enable all parties to take part in it.

In a press release today National Republican Party Chief Dr Mohammad Zahir Khan called upon the people to take part in the coming election for overcoming the current political crisis.

25 Killed, 500 Injured

*BK101620 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] At least 25 persons were killed and at least 500 injured in clashes between rival political groups during the village parishad [council] elections in Bangladesh today. Voting centers were ransacked and attempts made to disrupt the polling by snatching ballot boxes.

According to police, voting was suspended in about 400 centers and 200 persons have been arrested. In the northern Jamalpur District, four persons died when rival groups fought gun battles to gain control over polling

booths. Two others died in Naryanganj and Noakhali Districts. In Chittagong District, five persons were killed in rival group clashes. Paramilitary forces were rushed to a large number of voting centers to help the police and curb the widespread violence.

The opposition leader, Begum Khaleda Zia, has accused the police of torturing political activists in a bid to check the antigovernment protest. In a statement the Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief also said torture and harassment are increasing because of mounting resistance to the parliamentary election scheduled for next month.

The other main opposition party, the Awami League, has also accused the police of harassing and arresting its workers. The police have denied the charges.

Clashes Leave 39 Dead

*BK110202 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 11 Feb 88*

[Excerpts] Election of over 44,000 members and chairmen of union parishads [councils] was held throughout the country yesterday. [passage omitted]

Over 4 crore 30 lakh voters were eligible to cast the votes in over 31,000 polling stations. Polling in over 200 centers have been suspended following clashes between supporters of rival candidates. BSS, quoting official sources, said 39 people were killed during clashes among the supporters of the candidates yesterday. Of the total deaths, 16 people were killed in Chittagong, 12 in Dhaka, 6 in Rajshahi, and 5 in Khulna division.

'At Least 100' Killed

*BK110252 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 11 Feb 88*

[Text] Latest reports from Bangladesh say at least 100 people were killed and about 5,000 injured in yesterday's violence-marred local council elections. The deaths occurred in clashes throughout the country between supporters of rival candidates. They fought pitched battles with bombs, guns, and other lethal weapons. In one incident near Dhaka, 200 people are reported to have been injured when rival factions began shooting at each other. Voting was suspended in about 4,000 polling centers.

The leader of the Awami League, Sheikh Hasina, blamed the Ershad government for the violent incidents. She said this proves that no impartial and peaceful election is possible under the present government.

India

Gandhi Warns Pakistan on Siachen Issue
BK110403 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The prime minister has made it clear that the peacekeeping force will continue to disarm the LTTE until it lays down arms and agrees to support the India-Sri Lankan agreement. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing the parliamentary consultative committee of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi yesterday. The minister of state, Mr Natwar Singh, told the members that the doors for talks with the LTTE are open but the discussions can only take place within the framework of the India-Sri Lankan agreement. About the provincial council elections, he expressed the confidence that there would be a conducive atmosphere for holding the polls. Mr Natwar Singh said 7,700 refugees have already left India for home. Another batch is leaving today.

The meeting also discussed the situation in the Siachen area and various developments in the field of nuclear disarmament, particularly the INF treaty and the recent six-nation Stockholm summit. About Siachen, the prime minister reiterated India's determination not to surrender any ground in the area. Mr Gandhi said Pakistan would get a befitting reply if it attacks.

Replying to a query on U.S. arms aid to Pakistan, Mr Natwar Singh said the issue needs a close look since the U.S. had said that the aid would continue even after the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan. Members welcomed the Soviet leader Mr Gorbachev's initiative to start pulling out his country's troops from Afghanistan from May.

Lok Dal Chief on Gandhi's Foreign Policy
BK101141 Delhi PATRIOT in English
28 Jan 88 p 4

[Text] "I think Mr Rajiv Gandhi is trying the impossible." This was Lok Dal (B) Chief H.N. Bahuguna's response to a question about India's relation with the two great powers.

In an interview to PATRIOT, the veteran leader said that, "in the given geopolitical situation in the Indian subcontinent, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's hob-nobbing with the USA is not in our interest".

Mr Bahuguna added: "He (Mr Gandhi) must realise that in international relations there are no permanent friends, no permanent enemies, but only permanent interests. And the permanent interests of both India and the USA are in conflict."

Following is the text of the interview:

[PATRIOT] How would you assess the progress over the last 3 years in the pursuit of the government's declared policy of improving and normalising relations with the neighbours, in particular with (a) Pakistan (b) Bangladesh (c) China.

[Bahuguna] Our foreign policy suffers from one great weakness—that of infantile paralysis.

Foreign policy in the current world stands on two legs. One is a country's economic strength which means how much surplus a country has got. Secondly, a nation's armed strength.

In either case, India is a permanent member of the beggars' club, we do not enjoy self-sufficiency. We have to depend on other countries. Yet, our size frightens peoples and the nations of the subcontinent such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan often look upon India with suspicion.

With Pakistan, we have a relationship like two brothers who have quarrelled a lot before a partition. Two neighbours can easily become friends but two brothers who have fought before a partition seldom become friends.

The second problem with India and Pakistan is that it suits the rulers of both countries to play each other's card whenever they are faced with domestic problems. That is why I call it the "Indo-Pak discord card". My feeling is that had Gandhiji [Mahatma] not died as soon as he did and had M.A. Jinnah [founder of Pakistan] not died as soon as he did, they could have laid the foundation of a more lasting relationship between the two countries.

Finally, in the Indo-Pakistan relationship there is a third factor—that is, the American influence. Howsoever hard India and Pakistan might try to improve their relations, the USA has a vested interest in Pakistan and they have the audacity to say that Pakistan is a window on China. In the context of the U.S.-China-Pakistan axis it should be remembered that India and Pakistan would never be allowed to live in peace.

My own view is that, ultimately, solution lies in a type of comity of nations in the region, on the line of European Economic Community, in which India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and even Burma would participate. But it all depends on whether the ruling elite of India and Pakistan are interested in improving relations or not.

[PATRIOT] What in your opinion have been the major developments influencing the country's relations with the USSR and the U.S.? Do you perceive major shifts in India's foreign policy framework?

[Bahuguna] I think Mr Rajiv Gandhi is trying the impossible. We have seen ships calling on ports, joint exercises being held on the western shores of India of late. So far as I am concerned, I am neither pro-Russia

nor pro-America. I am only pro-India. But I must say that the geopolitical situation of this country is such that the friendship with the USSR is our safest bet.

Whereas Americans are interested in all the raw material all over the world and hence are ever keen on exploiting other country's resources, the USSR is one country which is blessed by nature with almost all conceivable raw materials, plenty of water, plenty of land, plenty of sunshine. It will be contented with what it has got but the USA would cast its covetous eyes on the wealth of other nations. Therefore, the Americans have to have some colonial, neocolonial relations, while the Russians need not do that.

That is why India's trade relations with the USSR is evenly matched subserving the interests of the two countries, whereas in the case of the USA it is not true.

Our late leader Choudhury Charan Singh a couple of months before his illness had revised and laid down the Lok Dal's foreign policy and said that our friendship with the USSR is our best bet. It is the only way to meet the Pak-China-U.S. axis. Charan Singh laid great emphasis of friendship with the USSR and declared it to be the official policy of the Lok Dal. He said friendship with the USSR is not the ruling party's policy, it is the national policy of India, a policy wanted and desired by the Indian people. The USSR must know this and feel so, he said.

The USA has used the veto against India endlessly and the USSR has come to our rescue endlessly. The multinationals and their exploits in India are opposed by the USSR which has government-to-government relations (with India). On the question of arms and peace, Charan Singh said the USSR has a more correct position than that of the USA.

It was because of such formulations that a leading newspaper of Delhi captioned its editorial "Red Star Over Lok Dal". The reason why Charan Singh reformulated his policy was he was a great and intense patriot and he saw danger at our doorstep.

With increasing internal dissensions, the fundamentalism rearing up its ugly head and the economy at its lowest ebb India, Charan Singh felt, could depend on the USSR.

So, I say, in the given geopolitical situation in the Indian subcontinent, Rajiv Gandhi's hob-nobbing with the USA is not in our interests. He must realise that in international relations there are no permanent friends, no permanent enemies, but only permanent interests. And the permanent interests of both India and the USA are in conflict. I cannot see the end of this tunnel.

[PATRIOT] How, in your opinion, have the peace accord with Sri Lanka and the IPKF operations in the island served the interests and image of the country in the international affairs?

[Bahuguna] I would not like to comment on this. All I would say is that Indian Army is in very difficult situation in Sri Lanka. Hats off to their courage, their dignity.

The political apparatus has really put our interests in great jeopardy by this move. But now it is like crying over spilt milk.

Gurkha Front Strike Protests 'Police Atrocities'
BK101646 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The 40-day bundh [strike] called by the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] in Darjeeling District evoked partial response on the 1st day today. According to the district magistrate, the attendance in government offices was between 70 and 90 percent in all the three subdivisions. Shops and other business establishments remained open. The GNLF activists blew up the Peshore Bridge on the Tista-Kalimpong road this morning. In Darjeeling town, two bombs exploded damaging a Home Guard office and some shops. One shopkeeper was injured in the incident. At Rangbul, a godown of state agriculture department was burnt down by the activists.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made in view of the bundh. Police pickets have been posted in and around vital installations and sensitive areas. The bundh is called in protest against alleged police atrocities in the hill areas.

'Activists' Sabotage Transformer
BK110407 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] A UNI report from Darjeeling says GNLF militants sabotaged the power transmission system in Kalimpong last night. The report quoting official sources said a transformer at Chalsa was blown up near Kalimpong and powerful bombs exploded in the town. The entire city was plunged into darkness on the 1st night of the 40-day bundh [strike] in the hill areas. The bundh is in protest against alleged police atrocities.

CPI To Reestablish Ties With Chinese CP
BK101436 Delhi PATRIOT in English
28 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] The CPI has decided to establish fraternal relations with the Communist Party of China.

It will send a four-member delegation led by party general secretary C. Rajeswara Rao to China in the last week of March on the invitation of the CPC.

This was decided by the party's Central Executive Committee (CEC) which met here on 23 and 24 January to review political developments in the country.

The other members of the delegation are National Council Secretaries M. Farooqi and A.B. Bardhan and National Council member Perim Romesh Chandra.

The CPI's decision to open communication with the CPC comes after a 15-year old freeze following the Chinese invasion of 1962. In fact the CPI contends that the Chinese aggression was the primary factor behind the split of the undivided Communist Party of India into the CPI and CPI-M. The CPI-M, however, holds that the primary reason for the split was the decade-long ideological struggle within the party on the line to be adopted towards the ruling class in India.

Briefing correspondents on the CEC meeting, Mr C. Rajeswara Rao said that the party's demand for the resignation of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao [NTR] would not affect its relations with its allies.

The CPI-M opposes the demand for Mr Rama Rao's resignation on the ground that the charges are politically motivated and should first have been examined by an enquiry commission as per convention.

The party's representatives attended the Telugu Desam's recent celebration in Hyderabad on the completion of five years in office. The CPI stayed away, demanding that NTR be replaced by a new leader elected by the Telugu Desam Legislature Party to prevent the Congress from staging a comeback in the State.

Mr Rao said that CPI workers in the State, demanding NTR's resignation because of his Government's "rampant corruption", were implicated in false cases.

He said that NTR had become a "liability" for the Opposition parties which are demanding the resignation of the Rajiv Gandhi Government for corruption in high places.

The CPI leader also said that his party would launch independent campaigns against the policies of the Central Government. These campaigns would supplement joint efforts with other Left and democratic parties against the Congress government. He, however, emphasised that a Left and democratic alternative "would not emerge tomorrow but out of struggles and movements".

Concluding that the internal situation in the country is very grim, the CEC remarked that the economic policies were leading to a huge budgetary deficit, an adverse balance of payments position and that the country was fast getting embroiled in a massive debt.

Mr Rao estimated that the servicing of external and internal debts alone takes up almost 25 percent of the Budget. He expected the Budget deficit to touch Rs 10,000 crore this year.

The country's economic conditions were further aggravated by the penetration of multinational companies into strategic sectors. This "dangerous portent" has come about because of the government's policy of liberalisation of imports, Mr Rao said.

Iran

Commentary on Gorbachev's Afghanistan Speech
LD102209 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Last Monday, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, in a televised speech announced that the Soviet Union is prepared to withdraw from Afghanistan. He said the Soviet Union will pull out all its military forces from Afghanistan starting May 15th, within 10 months or less, in the event of a solution in the next round of Geneva talks.

Gorbachev, in stressing Moscow's strong desire to pull out of Afghanistan, said: If this agreement is concluded and signed earlier than anticipated, the Soviet pull-out will naturally start earlier. The Soviet leader also said: Withdrawal of forces includes the political and technical aspects of the physical withdrawal from Afghanistan which will last some time. He added: Preconditions for this agreement has been secured with mutual satisfaction. He said he believed that in the event the present strugglers adopt a position of responsibility and participate in the trend toward peace, any hostilities surrounding the Soviet forces' pull-out can be prevented.

The Soviet leader also called on those countries involved in the Afghanistan dispute to support a settlement of the Afghanistan issue. He added: A political settlement in Afghanistan curtail the continuation of further regional conflicts.

The exit of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan is an important issue which will certainly bring about desirable conditions in the region. Mr Gorbachev's statements have considerably reduced any ambiguities about the Soviet Union's desire to withdraw from Afghanistan. The presence of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan in the recent years has considerably increased regional and international conflicts. Undoubtedly, this situation increased imperialist and arrogant interferences in the region.

Therefore, if the pull-out of the Soviet forces takes place according to plan, it will create favorable conditions for the improvement of the regional people's situation and for the reduction of imperialist aggression.

Several questions remain unanswered regarding the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan: Is Moscow prepared to take into consideration the Afghan people's right to determine their independent national

sovereignty following its withdrawal from Afghanistan? Will the exit of the Soviet forces not be used as a scapegoat for the survival of the current regime—which is unwanted by the people of Afghanistan? What can be understood from the contents of the statements made by the officials and those involved in the current talks is that the Soviets do not link the question of withdrawal from Afghanistan with the issue of the formation of a government.

If we review these statements on the Soviet Union's unconditional withdrawal from Afghanistan, beyond doubt one must consider it as a positive development. Nevertheless, there are still doubts as to whether Mr Gorbachev's statements have not been made in a spirit of pure propaganda and to put political pressure on the Afghan Muslim revolutionary people. What is certain is that it is only the Afghan Muslim people and revolutionaries who have the right to make decisions about their political life and sovereignty. The creation of unfavorable political and propaganda conditions against the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries and people with the aim of imposing certain conditions on them is as untenable as the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

Further on Events of Revolution's Anniversary

GDR Envoy Congratulates Khamene'i
*LD101644 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT
10 Feb 88*

[Text] Tehran, Feb 10, IRNA—The foreign diplomatic corps to the Islamic Republic of Iran called on President 'Ali Khamene'i here Wednesday to congratulate him on the ninth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution.

Speaking at the event, ambassador of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and dean of the diplomatic corps Guenther Fritsch, assured President Khamene'i that all diplomats present at the meeting will spare no efforts to strengthen ties between their countries and the Islamic Republic.

The GDR ambassador reminded that many top level delegations from various countries visited Tehran last year for talks on expansion of their countries' ties with the Islamic Republic.

Over the same period, noted Fritsch, the Islamic Republic asserted its presence in regional and international meetings where its viewpoints on international and regional issues were outlined.

In response, the president who also chairs the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) termed the 10 Days of Dawn as great, unforgettable days for Iran's Muslim people because they reached this stage after surmounting various difficulties, the legacy of the former monarchical systems of Iran particularly in the past two centuries.

During the 50-year dictatorial reign of the deposed shah and his equally tyrannical father and especially in past 20 years when U.S. domination over this country reached its peak, every kind of atrocity possible was perpetrated against the Iranian Muslim nation, Khamene'i said.

President Khamene'i, referring to the Islamic Republic's foreign policy, said that rejection of expansionist powers and commitment to Islamic beliefs is the cornerstone of Iran's foreign policy.

The SDC head described the Iraqi-imposed war as one of the plots hatched by enemies against the Islamic Revolution and Iran's Muslim people in a vain bid to prevent the revolution from spreading to other parts of the world. Global arrogance unsuccessfully tried to hamper the Islamic Government's constructive efforts, he added.

However, Khamene'i felt confident that the justice-seeking message of the Islamic Revolution and Iran's Muslim people has had favourable effects on a majority of world countries and was duly responded.

"We rely on our people's tremendous power and their solidarity with officials," said Khamene'i adding, "any retreat in the face of bullies will only encourage their browbeat policy."

On the Persian Gulf security, the president reiterated that the task of maintaining security in the region rests solely with regional countries, which he said, are quite capable of doing so. He also castigated the Iraqi Ba'hist regime as the cause of tension in the region.

Montazeri Meets Martyrs' Families
*LD101357 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the happy anniversary of the birth of Holy Zahra, may God's peace and benedictions be upon her, and on the eve of the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, a large number of sisters and families of martyrs, including the children of the martyrs of Qom, the families of the martyrs of Iraq, sisters in the War Support Unit from Ardakan, a number of sisters from the Chahar-Mardan District, students from the Mahbubeh secondary girls' school, the Islamic societies of the girls' schools in Qom, and sisters in the education and training department of Varamin, met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday in Qom. We begin the news reports for this hour with the remarks of the deputy leader at this meeting.

At this meeting Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, referring to the happy anniversary of the birth of Holy Zahra, may God's peace and benedictions be upon her, and Women's Day, and also the anniversary of the victory of the revolution, and also referring to the necessity to appreciate and praise all these anniversaries, noted: Although the families of martyrs have lost their guardians and feel deprived, they should know that if they

have shown tolerance and have brought up the children of martyrs properly—as the Koran has stated in connection with those who show tolerance and fortitude—God will recompense them immeasurably. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri mentioned the situation and role of militant women in the victory of the Islamic Revolution and their sacrifices in the bloody demonstrations before the revolution, which resulted in the martyrdom of many women and their children and also referred to the sacrifices of the Palestinian sisters in the scenes of demonstrations and clashes with Israeli soldiers. He stated: Palestinian Muslim women, inspired by their selfless sisters in Iran, are today in the throes of struggling with the Zionist executioners. It is the duty of all of us to provide various kinds of real assistance through those that are wealthy, including our Arab brothers in Islamic countries, and place this assistance at the disposal of the Islamic revolt of the risen people of Palestine and their respected officials, so that they can maintain their resistance. This should be done in addition to increasing publicity. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri continued his remarks: On this blessed day, the message of all the committed and self-sacrificing Iranian sisters to the risen Palestinian people is: Let your goal be God and religion in the struggle and the path which you have before you. Go forward relying on God. Palestinian ulama and academics should shoulder the leadership of the resistance of the people of Palestine and guide them in their difficulties and protect them. The Muslim people of Palestine should pay attention and distance themselves from political charades and continue their path until final victory. Approximately 6.5 million Palestinians in various parts of the world should offer their resources to this Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people. Other affluent brothers among Arab Muslim brothers, wherever they may be and in whatever way possible, should assist their brothers and sisters inside the occupied territories who are facing material difficulties and shortages. Efforts should also be made so that in the clashes, apart from the Israeli soldiers and executioners, clashes with other persons, God forbid, Jewish women and children and the old and weak, should be avoided, and only the enemies of the Koran and Islam should be confronted.

In conclusion, the deputy leader prayed for the victory of the fighters of Islam on all the battlefronts and for the health and long life of the imam of the ummah.

According to this report, yesterday afternoon, Mr Moh-tashemi [interior minister] also met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom.

IRNA Details Anniversary Events
LD102113 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10, IRNA—The iconoclastic cries of Allahu Akbar (God is Greatest) yet once again pierced the capital's air as millions of Muslims braving a cold

wintery night took to the snow-capped rooftops at 21:00 hrs local time (17:30 GMT) Wednesday to usher in the start of the tenth year of the Islamic Republic.

Simultaneously, flares and fire-crackers lit up Tehran's night sky transforming it into a panorama of bright colours as people marked the eve of epoch-making Bahman 22 (Feb. 11), the auspicious day which brought the Islamic Revolution to victory in Iran nine years ago under the wise leadership of Imam Khomeyni.

Every nook and cranny of the Islamic Republic reverberated with the awe-inspiring cry which has continued to fill the faithful with fresh courage and send a shivering down the spines of the obstinate whose short-sightedness has made them oppose this great monotheist call.

The eve revived afresh the brave struggles of the Iranian people whose unflinching faith against a regime armed to the teeth and backed by global arrogance had brought them final victory, which since then has continued to make all calculations of the big powers go awry.

This year there is an added significance as the cry of Allahu Akbar is echoing today in distant Palestine against the Zionist usurpers, which not only proves the strength and versatility of the Islamic Revolution but augurs the liberation of Al-Quds [Jerusalem] at last.

As more and more Muslim people utter this magic cry all over the Islamic world, the Islamic Republic today enters its tenth year of success with full confidence of victory in the Iraqi imposed war.

The plots of world arrogance have been defeated, the world admires Islamic Iran's prudence and as all pointers indicate Baghdad's Ba'thist regime is on the verge of being thrown once and for all in the garbage trash of history.

Repaired Helicopters Flown In
LD102212 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb 11, IRNA—Ten helicopters which recently underwent major repairs by local aviation experts in Iran were flown here Wednesday in a special ceremony marking the 9th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Iranian experts have also repaired another 14 helicopters of various types and successfully flight-tested them over the past one and a half month.

Deputy Defense Minister Col. Rahimi said that the Islamic revolution brought Iran independence in all aspects but time is needed for achieving military self-sufficiency which will come true only through the efforts of talented personnel.

At the end of the ceremony model pilots were given awards and the repaired helicopters were flown successfully and carried out tactical maneuvers in Tehran's airspace.

Nationwide Rallies Held

LD110951 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—Islamic Iran today witnessed massive nationwide rallies marking the 9th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Millions of Iranians including Muslims and religious minorities attended magnificent marches in different corners of the Islamic homeland thus renewing their allegiance to the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni.

In Tehran, huge crowds of demonstrators began marching towards the Azadi (Freedom) Square, west of the capital enjoying a pleasant sunny winter day, where they listened to a speech by President 'Ali Khamene'i.

The magnificent rally in the capital with enthusiastic shouts of "Allahu Akbar" (God is the greatest) and "independence, freedom, Islamic Republic" revived for the faithful Iranians and all the oppressed masses in the world the sweet memory of Bahman 22 (Feb. 11) nine years ago when the ex-shah's tyrannical rule came to an end and "blood triumphed over sword."

The day also marked the occasion to vow allegiance to all the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution who by sacrificing their blood guaranteed the victory of a popular Islamic Revolution which is now inspiring the whole Islamic world and awakening them against the despotism of their sold-out rulers.

The demonstrators in Tehran were carrying placards and posters with the slogans the Iranians used to chant during the days before the culmination of the Islamic Revolution, appearing on them. They also carried pictures of Imam Khomeyni, Ayatollah Montazeri as well as other Iranian officials and martyrs.

Some of the slogans chanted today were:

"We are all your soldiers Khomeyni, we are waiting for your orders Khomeyni.

"We will flight, we will die, but we will not compromise.

"War, war, till victory.

"Death to the U.S.

"Death to Israel."

Religious minorities also had active presence in today's rally here.

Many Iranian and foreign reporters were also present in the scene taking films and pictures and filing reports on the ceremony.

Foreign diplomatic corps as well as foreign guests of 10 Days of Dawn also participated in the people's march here today.

"As long as blood runs in our veins we will be obeying our dear Imam and will spare no effort for the cause of Islam," Fatima Kabiri a female demonstrator told IRNA reporter.

As usual Iranian women's participation in the rally was outstanding.

The father of two martyrs while holding the pictures of his lost ones, told our reporter that "Today, the distinction between a revolutionary and non-revolutionary Iranian is in his presence in the war fronts and his cooperation with the Muslim combatants."

"With the same firm determination that we overthrew the despotic rule of the ex-Shah, we are ready to annihilate all the enemies of the Islamic Revolution," he added.

It was a moving scene to see little kids carrying pictures of their martyred fathers.

As the people were moving towards the Azadi Square helicopters dropped colored papers as a sign of welcome to them. In the course of the rally special stands served the people with fruits and milk.

At about 07:45 GMT, the flag of the Zionist regime was set afire with trembling shouts of "Death to the U.S." and "Death to Israel," thus reiterating the Iranian people's full support for the uprising of Muslim Palestinians against the Zionist usurpers in the occupied territories.

Majlis Speaker Addresses Women's Conference
LD092027 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The first international congress of women and world Islamic revolution, being held in Tehran's Laleh Hotel with the participation of women leaders from throughout the world, ended this afternoon with a speech by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and with the issuance of an 11-point resolution.

In his remarks, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while noting the occasion of the blessed birthday of her holiness Zahra, may God's peace be upon her, embarked on an analysis of her holiness' life and said: From the life of her holiness, one can find a role model. He noted the oppression of women throughout history and said: Women are still carrying the burden of oppression on their shoulders. Until the last 2 centuries, serious discussions took place in the West about their humanity and

about their equal rights with men. However, Islam, because of its rich sources in Islamic teachings, recognizes men and women as equal from the point of view of humanity and human rights.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said: In Islam, the road to progress, development, and striving of women is not blocked in any way, but some of our customs and traditions may limit women. We must do away with them. There are no barriers to the education of women in any field. In social activities, too, there are no barriers. In this connection our difference with the West is this: We accept the revolutionary movement of women without moral corruption. However, the West teaches moral corruption. Women can engage in social activities only through the correct path.

In conclusion, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani answered a variety of questions from the participating guests. Then the final 11-point resolution of the international congress of women and world Islamic revolution was issued.

More on Majlis Speaker's Address

LD100902 Tehran IRNA in English 0641 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb 10, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here at the closing session of the international Muslim Women's Congress Tuesday that Islam does not set any limit on the advancement of women.

The congress concluded Tuesday by issuing a resolution which said Islam is the only emancipating ideology for humanity and for the communities which aspire to do away with oppression and injustice, and that the holy Koran is the best guide.

The Majlis speaker said that under Islam women can become specialists and engage in political and social activities. Islam, he told the congress, provides the opportunity for flourishing of women's capabilities.

He said Islam is against the idea of corrupting women as the Western and Eastern cultures promote under the slogan of women's liberation.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the participants, among them many foreign women, to strive and find a pattern in which a woman has a role consistent with her nature and mental and physical capacities and with Islamic values.

Elsewhere in his speech His Excellency the Majlis speaker stressed importance of such gatherings adding that throughout history women have been oppressed and their rights denied. He added that European societies are still engaged with basic questions with respect to women's rights. Islam, he said, has given women a high status.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the congress that the prophet's daughter Hadhrat Zahra (AS) is the ultimate pattern for women to follow.

The resolution of the congress pledged allegiance of the participants to Imam Khomeyni. It rejected the cultural patterns of both the West and East and said that Hadhrat Zahra (AS) has set the pattern for Muslim women.

The participants also emphasized importance of Hijab (full-length loose-fitting attire with scarf) as a standard attire for women in the society and said the advancement of a society depends on the virtue of its women.

They also expressed solidarity with Muslim women and said they will exploit all opportunities for helping Palestinian and Lebanese women until the Holy Qods is liberated.

The resolution deplored aggression by oppressors in Islamic lands, and urged women to seize upon opportunities for better educating themselves. It condemned without naming certain Muslim heads of state who deny such rights to women.

Editorial on Palestinian 'Islamic Revolt'

PM081609 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
30 Jan 88 p 20

[Editorial by Seyyed Hamid Rohani: "Responsibility of World's Muslims With Regard to Palestinian Movement"]

[Text] This is the message from the empty-handed heroes who, with the weapon of "God is great," have raised their cries to shake the hearts of their Zionist enemies. The cries of the heroes and the rioters of the crisis-ridden land of Palestine must be heard. This is how those echoes and cries can be analyzed:

1. The Islamic Revolution has been exported to the land of Palestine.
2. The American and Zionist plot to keep the Palestinian nation and the Arab masses away from Iran's Islamic Revolution has failed. The story of Israeli arms sales to Iran and "secret contacts and relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Israel" is a huge lie.
3. The heroic Palestinians have been inspired by Iran to utilize the single slogan "God is great" and "There is no God but God," and they have rejected nationalism, socialism, communism, and Ba'thism.
4. The Palestinian nation, with their own Islamic movement, say "no" to any compromise and no longer recognize the traitor 'Arafat as leader of the PLO.
5. The Palestinian nation, with their brave acts, reject all those who claim to be their protectors and are determined to end this devilish act of guardianship in order to take their fate into their own hands.

6. The Palestinians' Islamic revolt is a crushing answer to the American summit in Amman. It tells the puppets who gathered in Amman that they—the lackeys—are too weak to be able to play with Palestine's fate and to overshadow the Palestinian problem.

7. The Palestinian revolt condemns the Camp David path and rejects those who follow that path.

8. The Palestinians' Islamic revolt shows that in reality Palestine belongs to Islam. It shows that the Zionists can occupy this holy Islamic land for 40 years but can never make it their own. They will one day be expelled just as the French occupiers, who were armed to the teeth, were thrown out of Algeria, just as the blood-sucking Americans, French, and Zionists were thrown out of Lebanon.

9. Palestine's Islamic revolt is aimed not only against the Zionists but also against the Camp David followers, their Ba'thist partners, the Wahhabis, and other mercenary palace-dwelling Arabs who are willing to compromise and make bargains over Palestine.

10. The Muslim nation of Palestine calls all freedom-loving Muslims and oppressed peoples to an all-out, total struggle against world aggression, international Zionism, and the puppet and reactionary leaders of Arab and Islamic countries.

Now that we have heard the rioters' cries in the occupied land of Palestine, we must see what responsibilities lie on the shoulders of the followers of Islam throughout the world, particularly in Iran. What kind of reaction should they have?

One cannot claim to be a Muslim and still remain silent with regard to the crimes of the Zionists in Palestine, the Russians in Afghanistan, and the Americans all over the world. We must remove the borders and unite Muslims all over the world alongside other freedom-lovers.

Confronting the holy message of the ummah who have risen in the occupied land of Palestine, we must implement the following programs as soon as possible:

1. Attacks against the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Saddam and the occupiers of Palestine—via Lebanese territory and across other frontiers—must be increased. It goes without saying that any attack against Saddam's regime is a blow to the occupiers of Palestine and international Zionism.

2. The interests of Zionists and the Americans must come under attack throughout the world. The United States, which is a supporter of the occupiers of Palestine, and the Zionists themselves must lose their sense of security throughout the world. The world must become a graveyard for the Americans and the Israelis.

3. Anti-American and anti-Zionist propaganda must be increased.

4. The events and occurrences of the Palestinians' recent Islamic uprising, including their demonstrations and marches in the occupied territories, must be broadcast and published in the mass media in full detail in order to be heard by the whole world and to make people aware of the Zionist crimes committed against them.

5. The aims and goals of the Palestinian nation and their purpose for rioting and confronting the Zionists must be analyzed in depth.

6. Pictures and names of martyrs and wounded in this holy and Islamic uprising must be made into posters and leaflets. Streets and alleys in various cities must be named after these loved ones, who are now sleeping in their own blood.

7. A bank account must be opened to gather donations inside and outside the country in order to help the families of injured Palestinians. Financial and medical help must be sent to the occupied territories by any means possible.

8. If this holy struggle goes one step further and becomes an armed confrontation against the Zionists, arms, explosives, and other equipment must be placed at the disposal of the rioters for armed struggle and partisan fighting.

9. Acts of treason, compromises, and deals made by some so-called leaders of Palestinian organizations such as 'Arafat must be discussed carefully and exposed. At this time it is important that we mention the documents indicating secret contacts between the PLO leader and the hated shah of Iran and the monies he received from the shah, contacts that must be brought out into the open by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

10. We invite the Muslim peoples and especially the ulema to gather in a conference to discuss the Palestinians' Islamic uprising and the types of help that can be provided for this holy struggle.

We pray that this popular revolution will, with the help of God, turn into an Islamic revolution to dry out the cancerous roots of the Zionists in the occupied lands in order to return dear Palestine to the realm of Islam. That day is close. [Koranic verse omitted]

First Defense Industries-Made Plane Tested
LD101856 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Semnan, Feb. 10, IRNA—The first Iranian made warplane manufactured by experts of the air force of the Islamic Republic and already successfully test flown will shortly see service at the war fronts.

Head of the Ideological Political Department of the armed forces Hojjat ol-Islam Safai'e told reporters here Wednesday that Iran is now capable of making sophisticated warplanes together with all their needed spare parts.

Furthermore, various other weapons used on the war fronts have been made by the defence industries he disclosed, while many others are on production line.

Hojjat ol-Islam Safai'e said that major changes have taken place since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 which he likened to a miracle adding, the armed forces efforts are unprecedented in the history of wars in the world.

Musavi Launches IRGC-Made Landing Craft
LD101334 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpt] A Central News Unit correspondent has dispatched a report on the continuation of the prime minister's tour in Bushehr Province.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, who is in Bushehr Province, this morning inspected the Iran-Darya Marine Industrial Company. [passage omitted] After inspecting various departments of this company, the prime minister attended a ship launching ceremony.

After the inspection, Prime Minister Musavi arrived at a glorious gathering of the Muslim and martyr-nurturing people of Bushehr and gave a speech. Referring to the fact that the enemies of the Islamic Revolution are incapable of understanding the revolution, the prime minister said: Our enemies have not yet understood the transformation which has taken place in our country under the aegis of Islam. Thanks to the blessing of the Islamic Revolution, the good features that the regime of the shah was striving to destroy have blossomed again and the enemies are frightened of the power of the deprived of this region.

He added: This region is very important strategically and the enemies have taken advantage of this to secure their illegal interests. However, Islam is against this and we cannot bear to see that the aliens are present next to us. Mir Hoseyn Musavi continued by stressing the need to continue the struggle against the enemies of the Islamic Revolution until final victory saying: They never imagined that a nation like this will be prepared for martyrdom and steadfastness.

In conclusion, referring to the selflessness of the fighters of Islam, the prime minister said: Our fighters, with their meager resources and small boats, give our reply to the superpowers.

It was pointed out that the ship launched by the prime minister is the first landing craft made by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Landing Craft Capabilities Noted
LD102210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, on the threshold of God's day, 12 February, during ceremonies held in the presence of the IRGC minister, the first landing craft built by the IRGC Ministry's Marine Industries was launched at Bandar-e Abbas.

This landing craft is capable of carrying all types of vehicles and tanks and other heavy military equipment up to a total weight of 120 tonnes.

The vessel—38 meters long and 7 and 1/2 meters wide and 8 meters high—cost 120 million rials to build.

Musavi Meets Pilots Who Downed Iraqi Jets
LD101531 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Bushehr, Feb 10, IRNA—The brave Iranian pilots who downed three Iraqi Mirage jet-fighters in dogfights over the Persian Gulf waters Tuesday morning, met Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here yesterday evening along with team members of the successful operations.

Premier Musavi presently in this southern city described their valour as an "honour for our heroic people."

The operational flight commander disclosed that two of the pilots of the courageous dogfights are among the first batch of officers to have completed their flight training exclusively in Iran and moreover he added, the missiles fired at enemy warplanes were manufactured by Iranian experts.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Air Force Bombs Al-'Amarah Region
LD111155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced: The brave pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 1110 today, flying their fighter-bombers, bombed enemy troop concentrations and armored equipment in the Al-'Amarah operational region. Having inflicted heavy damages and casualties on the Zionist enemy, our aircraft returned safely to their bases.

Communique No 3,108
LD101714 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted 12 cargo ships, and oil and gas tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Wednesday.

The 3108th Joint Staff communique said the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday to provide air cover for the Navy and reconnoiter positions of foreign vessels in the waterway.

Iraqi forces sustained considerable losses in men and equipment throughout the battlefields in artillery and mortar duels with Iran's Muslim combatants Tuesday, it added.

Two Iraqi patrol convoys attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Panjwin, northwestern sector, were repelled by heavy Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

In Kani-Sheykh, western fronts, Iranian artillery fire inflicted heavy losses on six Iraqi tanks Tuesday.

Iranian gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the western and southern sectors yesterday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Heavy artillery fire of the Muslim Combatants silenced the fire of Iraqi tank squadrons in Yebis and Nahr 'Anbar, southern and western sectors, Tuesday, concluded the communique.

Tudeh Dissidents Form New Communist Party
PM111054 Paris LE MONDE in French
9 Feb 88 p 44

[Unattributed report: "Tudeh Dissidents Form New Communist Party"]

[Text] Dissidents from the Tudeh Party—Iran's historical Communist Party—have just founded a new Communist Party abroad—the Iranian People's Democratic Party—according to a communique issued in Paris on Saturday 6 February. The founding congress was held in January outside Iran and was attended by former Tudeh members.

After the dismantling of the Tudeh Party by the Iranian authorities in 1983, some party cadres, including Central Committee members, had become increasingly critical of the new leadership living abroad, disputing in particular the conclusions they drew from the past and the strategy they were planning for the future. The split was confirmed in May 1986 at the Tudeh Party's national conference, during which the dissidents were expelled from the party.

Tudeh Party representatives in Paris state that 70 political prisoners, including several of its cadres, could be executed in Iran very soon, because the death sentence passed on them is now due to be carried out.

Fada'iyan-e Khalq on Revolution's Anniversary
LD110603 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers
in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Message of the Central Committee of the Fada'iyan-e Khalq organization, majority wing, to the people of Iran on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the February revolution—read by announcer]

[Text] Respected compatriots: On the eve of the ninth anniversary of the February revolution, we honor the glorious memory of the steadfast fighters, the heroic self-sacrifices, and the epic revolt of the masses. We also salute the pure spirits of the martyrs who lost their lives on the path of the revolution's honorable and popular goals. The revolution of February was the greatest epic in the contemporary history of Iran and the most prominent manifestation of the anger and repugnance felt by our people for the injustice and oppression of the monarchical Pahlavi regime—that agent of the plundering domination of imperialism—in our homeland. The revolution demonstrated that rule by executioners and oppressors cannot last in the face of the uprising and anger of the masses and that the foundation of the oppressor's rule, despite a formidable appearance, collapses like a house of cards.

In overthrowing the shah's regime, the people of Iran sought to build an Iran that is peace-seeking, independent, free, and prosperous. The 10-million strong crowd of people carried out the February revolution for the sake of independence, democracy, happiness and well-being, justice, and social progress. It was demonstrated once again that the firm resolve and courageous combat of the masses—so long as it does not lead to the transfer of power to the people nor give rise to a government that relies on the will of workers, peasants, and all progressive and democratic strata in society—cannot lead to the fortification and embellishment of anti-imperialist and democratic gains of the revolution and of the masses. Khomeyni, in whom the people placed their confidence, instead of establishing the sovereignty of the people in the country, imposed on the people absolute divine rule or the absolute supremacy of jurisconsult. This is the same as the absolute despotism of the theologians, and extended the black and repugnant hegemony of religious despotism throughout society.

Following the establishment of the regime of the supremacy of the jurisconsult, the gains of the revolution were taken away, one after another, from the real owners of the revolution, the masses. Popular and revolutionary forces, organizations, and parties that were struggling to achieve peace, independence, democracy and social justice, and progress—that is, the goals of the revolution and the demands of the people—were subjected to persecution and bloody repression. Instead, the plunderers of the people and the thieves of the public treasury galloped into the arena without restraint.

Khomeyni's treachery and the treachery of other leaders of the Islamic Republic and their wicked assault upon the achievements of the February revolution destroyed the gains of our people's revolution. The masses have now discovered and are discovering that Khomeyni's rule by jurisconsult is a reactionary, warmongering, and antipeople regime, and its continuation will only increase the suffering and misery of the toiling masses. The only way for the masses to realize their demands is to smash the yoke of religious despotism and overthrow the Islamic Republic.

Dear compatriots: Religious despotism in the country is reeking with injustice; the regime of the supremacy of yhr jurisconsult is the regime of the absolute despotism of the jurisconsult, and it has savagely trampled under foot the political freedoms the revolution gained at the price of the blood of thousands of martyrs. The violation of human rights and the bloody repression of revolutionary and progressive forces, the torture and execution of political prisoners, the barbaric trampling under foot of women's rights, and the imprisonment of ethnic and religious minorities has placed the regime of Khomeyni beside the most despised regimes in the world.

The war between Iran and Iraq which has now been going on for 7 years has turned into a national and all-embracing tragedy. There is not one household that has not offered a victim, and there is no house that is not a house of mourning. The war has cast its sinister shadow over all aspects of individual and social life in the country, and it has intensified the economic crisis, increased inflation, increased unemployment, homelessness, poverty, prostitution, drug addiction, and corruption. The economic policy of the regime has for some time now been turned into a war economic policy. As a result of this policy, social inequalities have widened. The continuation of this war is a weapon in the hands of Khomeyni to further strengthen the regime of the supremacy of the jurisconsult in our country.

Khomeyni is mercilessly intransigent in the face of the demands of the people and progressive forces of the country for the establishment of peace. He opposes the peace-seeking efforts that are being made on an international level to silence the guns of war. The war is at the service of the wheeling and dealing going on behind closed doors between Khomeyni and other leaders in his regime with U.S. imperialism, and such an agent is effective in extending the presence and influence of imperialism in the region. The war is at the service of the interests of imperialism in the region and of reactionary classes in the countries of Iran and Iraq. Despite the fact that war has exhausted both countries, the Khomeyni regime, by mobilizing forces in the name of financial and self-sacrificing struggle and of continuing war operations, endeavors to nip in the bud all peace-seeking measures to end to this hellish war and prevent Security Council Resolution No 598 from being implemented.

Compatriots: Intensify the struggle against the regime of the supremacy of the jurisconsult, that warmongering, despotic ruling regime. Struggle for the unconditional establishment of a cease-fire toward the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598. Fight against the ruling oppression and religious despotism; against the violation of democratic and political freedoms; against detention, arrest, and execution of the revolutionaries and patriots of the country. Fight for the freedom of political prisoners; resist the plundering of your achievements; fight against slavery and discrimination; and extend and increase your struggles for the achievement of social justice. Rise for the sake of peace and freedom and overthrow the regime of the Islamic Republic.

Workers, peasants, and toilers: Religious despotism, the continuation of war, and the intensification of the economic crisis have increased social grievances among your ranks. The leaders of the regime of the Islamic Republic fear for their own future. Your increasing awareness concerning the treacheries committed by Khomeyni and his men against the goals of the revolution and the reactionary nature of the rule of the theologians has increased their fear and intensified the quarrels of the ruling circles. The struggle for power among the ruling factions has increased, as seen in the Majlis and presidency election forecasts, and Khomeyni's backing of one faction has given it new dimensions. While the situation is becoming more conducive to an increase in the people's resistance, Khomeyni is preparing hypocritical maneuvers to deceive you and hold you back from your decisive battle to achieve your demands. Do not trust Khomeyni's tricks and those of his regime's statesmen.

Progressive and resistant forces, unite for the sake of peace, freedom, and the overthrow of the regime of the supremacy of the jurisconsult. Any split in our ranks will benefit the enemies of our people and prolong the life of the hated Khomeyni regime. Persistent efforts to arrive at the combat unity of all peace-loving, progressive, democratic, and revolutionary forces of the country is our answer to the treason that Khomeyni has committed against our people and our revolution. Let us press each others' hands for the victory of the people in its struggle to overthrow the Islamic republic. May the glorious memory of the February revolution be honored! May the regime of the Islamic Republic be overthrown!

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Fada'iyan-e Khalq of Iran organization, majority wing, the month of Dey 1366 [22 December 1987-20 January 1988]

Pakistan

USSR's Vorontsov Continues Visit, Meets Leaders

Conveys Gorbachev Message

BK110335 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Yuliy Vorontsov called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi last evening and gave him an important message

from Mr Gorbachev regarding the Afghanistan problem. During the in-depth discussion, both sides identified significant common grounds for a resolution of the problem. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr Zain Noorani, Pakistan's permanent representative at the United Nations S. Shahnawaz, and Foreign Secretary Mr Abdus Sattar were also present during the meeting. Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan Mr A.H. Vazirov and Soviet delegation members assisted the Soviet deputy foreign minister. Later, the president hosted a dinner in honor of the distinguished guests.

Diplomatic sources in Islamabad express the hope that the current visit of the Soviet deputy foreign minister will help him to assess correctly the dual nature of the Afghanistan problem. The sources also point out that the UN envoy, Mr Diego Cordovez, has acknowledged the necessity of giving the Afghan people an opportunity to exercise their right of self-determination. Last September he formally proposed that the finalization of Geneva agreements needed to be synchronized with the creation of an interim government. Only such a coordinated action could guarantee a genuine solution of the problem.

Diplomatic sources note that difficulties continue to hinder a peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan problem. They point out that Mr Gorbachev's statement [on withdrawing troops beginning 15 May] did not address the question of the return of Afghanistan refugees. These sources say this question is an imperative objective for Pakistan. Agreements that do not secure peace inside Afghanistan and resolve the refugee problem are useless.

These sources recall the recent statement of the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, that Pakistan will sign Geneva agreements only with the legitimate government of Afghanistan. Only a government independently set up by the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, members of the resistance groups based in Pakistan, and other Afghan people will create confidence in any decision on the return of refugees. Diplomatic sources express the hope that the new Soviet leadership which appears to be willing to promote peace and reconciliation in the true sense in Afghanistan will realize the need to set up a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

Restates Soviet Position, Departs

BK111148 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, has said that the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan will expedite the solution of all other problems in that country, including the formation of an interim government. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport today before his departure at the end of his talks with Pakistani leaders and officials.

Mr Vorontsov said the most important problem after the Geneva process is, what he called, the formation of a government of national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

He pointed out that the creation of such a government is the task of Afghans alone. He said we can and should facilitate the creation of such a government by speedy conclusion of the Geneva accord and by demonstrating to everybody that the Soviet forces will be withdrawn at a certain date and according to the wishes of all those who participated in the Geneva process.

UAE President Holds Talks With Ziaul Haq

JN101627 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
9 Feb 88 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has criticized U.S. policy in the Middle East. His highness said that Washington must adopt a U.S. and not an Israeli policy, as well as a clear position, so that it can play a proper role throughout the world, particularly in the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Following his talks with Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Lahore yesterday, Shaykh Zayid said that as a superpower, the United States must play an unbiased, honest role that will restore people's rights and achieve a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem.

A responsible source said that after the meeting Shaykh Zayid and Pakistani President Ziaul Haq discussed current developments in the region and the efforts under way to end the Iraq-Iran war. The responsible source added that the two presidents stressed the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which calls for an end to the Iraq-Iran war. The source added that the two presidents also expressed deep concern over the prolongation of this war, which undermines the resources of the two Muslim countries. [passage omitted]

Meets With Prime Minister

JN110845 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Lahore, 10 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, received at his residence in Lahore this evening Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and ways to promote cooperation in various fields. They also discussed the latest developments in the Afghanistan issue and matters of mutual interest.

Correspondent Visits Siachen Glacier

BK071120 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
28 Jan 88 pp 1, 6

[First installment of Salim Bokhari Report: "Situation in Siachen—I"]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 27—The low-intensity, undeclared war continues on the Siachen Glacier ever since the dispute erupted back in 1984. Though a state of war persists, Pakistan effectively controls four of the five

passes in the Glacier area, namely, Siala La, Gyong La, Yarmala La and Chulung La (La means pass in the local language). The remaining Bilafond La is the hottest point where the almost daily exchange of fire by heavy artillery guns is a common feature.

However, Indian activity in the Siachen Glacier area poses no threat to the Karakoram Highway as recently suggested by reports in the Indian and world media. From the Indian positions in the Bilafond La, the nearest Karakoram Highway point is Janglot, a place near Gilgit at a distance of over 250 kilometres crow flight (a military term for distance).

Meanwhile, Indian troops have made no advances on the entire Siachen Glacier, which is spread over 87 kilometres (45 miles), due to effective defence by Pakistani troops deployed in the area. These troops are fighting their enemy in conditions where survival is nothing short of a miracle.

Nowhere has any battle been fought at an altitude of 24,000 feet. To defend the country's frontiers in such areas, Pakistani troops fight two enemies at a time, one being the Indian troops and the other the harsh climatic conditions. In fact, the two armies engaged in the conflict here have suffered more casualties at the hands of the pitiless weather than the enemy.

In the wake of the statement of Indian Major General Nanda claiming victories in the Siachen area, this correspondent undertook a journey to the forward positions held by the Pakistani troops to investigate the situation on the ground.

The Siachen dispute acquired public prominence last September. Indian troops launched an attack on Quaid Observation Post (commonly mistaken as Quaid base) and captured it after a bitter battle, suffering heavy losses in the process.

The Indian commander, Maj. Gen. Nanda, who spoke to the world Press on Jan. 12, claimed that his troops had repulsed an attack by Pakistani troops and caused "heavy human loss to the enemy." On-the-spot enquiries made by THE MUSLIM revealed that an attack was launched on the said date and only a couple of dozen people were involved in it. During the process, they found an Indian unit returning to their rear base after being replaced, and took them on. The Pakistani troops opened fire and inflicted many casualties on the Indians. However the enemy troops present at the previously held Pakistani Quaid Observation Post, opened fire on Pakistani troops, causing some casualties.

A commander in the area told THE MUSLIM: "Our casualties were not even half the Indian losses in the operation." He went on to say that what had surprised most of them was how the Indian general could count the bodies of our Jawans [soldiers] while he could not see our post located at a distance of few hundred feet from their

forward positions. He said the figure of 150 dead given by the Indian general made no sense because such heavy casualties are possible only if a full brigade is involved in the attack which was not so. He was of the view that the Bilafond La, where the operation took place was situated in such difficult terrain that movement of troops in such large numbers was simply not possible.

A commander at a forward post, at an altitude of over 17,000 feet, said: "We are not worried due to limited losses at the hands of the enemy troops, but the losses caused to our troops by the weather have reached an alarming level. There is nothing in the world that we could do to protect our soldiers from the devastation of the weather. Troops have been provided with the best equipment available in the world. The dress kit provided to each Pakistani soldier fighting in the Bilafond La or elsewhere on the Siachen Glacier costs four thousand U.S. dollars each.

Despite such odds, the morale of the Pakistani troops is very high. Soldiers and officers returning after completing their tenure in the forward positions even expressed a desire to go back. This high morale, according to one of the commanders, was the key to our effective defence against a powerful enemy.

The local porters have also played a very significant role in consolidating the positions of our army in such difficult mountain terrain. They have managed to lift heavy guns and made it possible for these guns to be installed at very high altitudes. Though they get paid on a daily wage basis, yet their enthusiasm is the major factor for their high performance. So far, the army in this area has never faced a situation where the availability of porters has become a problem. These porters are also effectively maintaining supplies to the forward positions.

Ever since the dispute blew up, there has not been any flag meeting between the commanders of the two sides. About a month ago, such a meeting was sought by the Indian commander in the area but Pakistan has so far not responded.

It was in 1948 that the United Nations appointed a commission to demarcate the line of control between India and Pakistan. The work was done in most of the border area but at a point where Siachen Glacier begins, demarcation was abandoned mainly because the climatic conditions did not allow the carrying out of such an operation. It was in fact left as a "No man's land". The commission said that the remaining work would be undertaken at a later stage. In 1949 the Karachi Agreement was signed. According to this it was decided that the commanders of the two sides would demarcate the line of control in this area. No move to accomplish this task was made for several years. In 1972 at the time of the signing of the Simla Agreement, the two sides also decided to undertake operation to complete demarcation of the remaining areas, but due to a variety of unforeseen factors the operation never got going.

The fact that Indian troops have been moved into Siachen Glacier came to knowledge only in 1984. A Japanese expedition was given permission to scale Siachen Glacier by the Pakistan Government. The team was due to arrive in May 1984. However, an advance party of the expedition arrived earlier to make an assessment of the area and at an early stage of their operation, they found that Indian troops had occupied several parts of the Glacier. The expedition was cancelled and Pakistani authorities took a serious view of the situation.

It was decided to move Pakistani troops into the Siachen Glacier and they effectively checkmated the Indian advance at a certain point. This has since become the line of control. However, since then Pakistani troops have pushed the Indians back from Pakistani territory at several points.

The Indian Government at this stage suggested that the existing positions of the two armies should be recognised as the line of control but this was not acceptable to Pakistan.

The Quaid Post was in fact an Observation Post (OP) and was held by the Pakistan Army. The Indian Commander decided to capture this post and deployed a large number of his troops to undertake the operation. The said post was being manned by 14 Pakistani troops which included officers as well. They defended the post till the last man.

A Commander in the area when asked to comment on the nature of operations by the Pakistan Army said "our purpose in Siachen is not to conquer enemy land but to make the Indians pay a heavy price for their decision to move troops into Pakistani territory. And I can assure you, we have done this to a large extent."

The weather is the common enemy of both the Indian and Pakistani armies. In fact, more people have been killed by the weather than in military operations. Most of Siachen Glacier is a permanent snowline. The temperature even in summer is minus 30 centigrade and drops to -40 or -50 centigrade in winter. It becomes worse when blizzards start blowing. Blizzard is an icy wind which blows at a speed of 120 and carries with it tiny snow crystals which hit you like bullets. The army has always been supplied with equipment that can measure up to minus 30 centigrade. But this proved inadequate in the Siachen area and new equipment had to be procured to measure the temperature.

There is no life on and around the Siachen Glacier and the nearest inhabitation is found 70 km below the Siachen area. This place is called Khapalu. The only creature that can survive the harshness of the weather in the Siachen area is a large size black crow which one can see on occasions.

The weather effects have made the Siachen area in fact "a death trap in more than one way."

Frostbite

This is the one of the most dangerous affliction and there is apparently no remedy for it except to amputate the part of the body which gets frostbitten. In some cases both hands and feet have to be amputated, rendering the officer or jawan permanently disabled. The troops are advised not to let any part of their body be exposed to air. It is possible that the one who gets frostbite does not realise it at that time. The affected part later turns black and becomes numb. Such parts have to be amputated. Officers and Jawans who are performing duties at high altitude posts have been provided special dress which costs Rs. 30 to 40 thousand. This secures them against harm if they do not make a mistake.

Death has also been caused by lack of oxygen. At high altitudes, oxygen is a very rare commodity. If an enemy attack takes place and troops are trapped under fire, they cannot run because if they do, they would surely die of asphyxiation.

Pulmonary Edema

This disease can also be fatal. In this case water gets logged in the lungs due to low temperature. The remedy, according to a senior military medical officer, is to take the patient down from the high altitudes and give him the necessary treatment. The doctors termed the disease, "water-logging of the lungs."

Talking to this correspondent, the Lt. Col. in charge of CCS (casualty clearing station) hospital based in Gilgit said that in 1987 there were 111 cases of frostbite of which 38 were hand cases, 54 feet cases and in 19 cases the patients had both hands and feet affected. In 1985 there were 106 cases while the figure in 1986 was 96. Frostbite-cases have now gone up because more troops have been deployed.

He said that the CCS has the capability to cater to the requirements of the area. A proposal had been sent to GHO to give the CCS the status of CMH [combined military hospital], which, if approved, would be of great benefit to the troops as well as civilians in the area. He said the CCS was established in Gilgit some 11 years ago. This correspondent also talked to three patients, Mir Wali Khan, Mumtaz Ahmed and Mir Baz Khan who suffered frostbite. Wali lost both his hands and feet, Mumtaz both feet, while Mir Baz lost the fingers of both his hands and the toes of both his feet. During the discussion at the CCS, it was revealed that the government had decided to send victims of frostbite abroad for treatment. It has also been decided to retain them in the army to perform other duties after they recover and are provided artificial limbs by the Fauji [military] Foundation.

Special arrangements have been made to continue uninterrupted supplies of ammunition and food to the troops due to the very special nature of the area. First, the normal method is adopted and supplies are sent by army

convoys on vehicles. But in most cases these convoys get stuck at Skardu due to blockade of the road by heavy snowfall or bad roads. Those responsible for supplies do not, however, wait and start their operations on foot. Secondly, supplies are ferried by helicopter but at times even this becomes impossible due to inclement weather.

Second Installment

BK071244 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
30 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[Second installment of Salim Bokhari report: "Situation in Siachen—2"]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 29—Indian troops deployed at Siachen Glacier and adjoining areas are well equipped to fight in such a terrain. They have good equipment and adequate means of transport. In fact, India raised an exclusive Mountain Division back in 1962 following border clashes with China. Since then, this division has gained in skill and sophistication, so much so that Indian troops are using snowmobiles, most of which are produced in India. In comparison, Pakistani troops are short of resources and equipment to fight in an area like Siachen. Lama helicopters, which can fly as high as 30,000 feet, are being manufactured in India. Pakistan is also using the same helicopters but it has had to buy them from France.

But one can see for oneself that the battle in this part of the world can't be fought with the latest weapons alone. In fact, this is a battle of nerves. What matters the most is physical fitness of the troops.

Later, the authorities seem to have become alike to this need. Apart from providing better equipment, they have now thought of training the troops in snow warfare at high altitudes. The existing short training has been extended while new schools have been opened where troops and officers are being provided long-term training. A word of praise is due to the engineering and signal corps of the army who have provided good communication facilities and an effective supply system in the desolate region.

The difficulties and disabilities notwithstanding there are several questions that remain unanswered. Why did the military hierarchy fail to take effective measures to counter Indian advances in the initial stages, particularly when the situation came to their knowledge in 1984? Who is responsible for this? What planning is being done to remedy the situation? Are we satisfied with the present state of affairs on the Siachen Glacier? No doubt the Pakistani troops are keeping their powder dry and have largely succeeded in keeping the enemy at bay. But is that all to it? The fact is that the answer does not lie in Siachen or with the present commanders there.

The Indian action on Siachen has in a strange way helped clear some misunderstandings about the position of K-2, the world's second highest peak. In 1984, the Indian

Government released an advertisement that appeared in several world publications asking the expeditionists to seek New Delhi's permission to scale the 28,250 feet peak. This led to serious controversy as to who was in the effective control of the mountain.

In April 1985 Pakistan took effective control of a place called Conway Saddle located in Siaia La at a height of 21,000 feet. This practically cut off all possible approaches to K-2 from the Indian side. Since then Pakistani troops are manning the area and India has failed to send any expedition to scale K-2.

The Indian activity on the Siachen Glacier and their occupation of Turkistan La (initially Chinese territory) has seriously jeopardised the 1962 protocol signed between Pakistan and the People's Republic of China. As a result of this Protocol, the two signatories demarcated the border in the north. The Protocol also provided that India would be included in the final phase of the demarcation work. However, India rejected the Protocol immediately after it was signed.

Turkistan La is situated very close to Siala La and K-2. It is in fact part of China's Sinkiang Province.

Though hostilities on the Siachen Glacier have so far been restricted they have the potential to escalate to other parts of the border between Pakistan and India. It is the responsibility of the two governments—India and Pakistan—to make sincere efforts to avert a situation where they have to seriously think of the military option instead of handling the situation politically. It is believed that the commanders on both sides of the fence are of the view that the military option would not be in the interest of the two nations.

On the other hand, no serious initiative seems to be coming from either side to take the burning issue of Siachen Glacier to the negotiating table. It was decided during Prime Minister Junejo's meeting with his Indian counterpart Rajiv Gandhi in Bangalore that the officials of the two sides would meet to sort out the sensitive issue. It was in this connection that the Defence and Foreign Secretaries of the two countries were to meet at an early date.

Though the Pakistan Foreign Office claimed in a recent briefing that diplomatic efforts at various levels were under way aimed at making the proposed meeting of the Secretaries a real success, yet no date for the said meeting has been finalised. It is dangerous to keep this issue hanging.

There is another important aspect of the Siachen crisis. The people's representatives, particularly the Opposition, think that the armed forces have let the nation down and failed to effectively defend the frontiers. On the other side, the army feels isolated because there is a general feeling among the troops that the nation is not behind them in their hazardous assignment. This mistrust must end as early as possible and the proper

quarters should undertake moves for national integration, particularly between the people and the army. The precedent can be quoted from the 1965 war against India when the whole nation backed up its armed forces without any pre-condition. A junior commander at a brigade headquarter commented: "How do you expect us to fight the enemy effectively if we do not feel strong enough without the support of our own people?" Another reason for the mistrust is the fact that the government has never bothered to take the nation into confidence on the happenings in Siachen.

Sri Lanka

WEEKEND Cites Indian Gunboat Diplomacy
BK070620 Colombo WEEKEND in English
24 Jan 88 p 7

[Rex de Silva article: "Nuclear 'Fallout' From India's Regional Quest"—this item is being rerun due to incomplete publication in the 8 February DAILY REPORT]

[Text] When it celebrates its Republic Day on Tuesday [26 January], India would have also entered the big league of regional superpowers.

By then its newly acquired Charlie I or Victor Class nuclear powered submarine would have sailed into the warm waters of the Indian Ocean from the cold of Russia's Vladivostok.

Though reputedly obsolete in superpower standards, the nuke-sub leased out by Moscow undeniably makes India the only Asian country besides China to have such military hardware.

With its arrival in India, the subcontinent invariably becomes a hardcore arena of nuclear arms race.

New Delhi has had visions of a great naval superiority in its own endeavours to reach the status of an Indian Ocean power.

It had always envisaged the control of the waters of this great ocean. For it is said by military strategists of yore that "whoever controls the Indian Ocean can dominate Asia, and in the next century the future of the world will be decided in these waters."

India's great hunt for a mighty navy began in the early seventies when the American fleet led by the "Enterprise" cruised into the Bay of Bengal during the Indo-Pakistan confrontation during the liberation of Bangladesh.

Ironically it is the United States that was first to raise guarded objections about India's new acquisition. Its quarrel was not with Delhi. But with its own archrival the Soviet Union.

On Friday last the U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman expressed certain misgivings saying that the leasing of the submarine by Moscow clearly introduces a new weapons technology into South Asia. He further clarified his government's policy saying that the U.S. always opposed transfer of nuclear reactors which also include nuclear propulsions to countries which are not members of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. It is reported that Washington followed up the issue with Moscow at a bilateral meeting in the U.S. capital early this week.

One can nevertheless surmise that the U.S. would hardly pursue a strong line on this issue for many reasons. Washington obviously is making friendly overtures to India, which it has come to recognise as a regional power having certain unwritten rights in displaying its dominance over the rest of the neighbouring countries. At a time when relations with the Soviet Union are at a friendly peak, one cannot expect serious polemics—for that matter over an old sub.

What seems rather strange is the continued and enhanced American military assistance to Pakistan. It remains an absolute thorn in Indo-U.S. relations. One particular reason that prevents American dissent over the Soviet lease to India is their own high level weapon induction to Pakistan.

Coinciding strangely with the lease of the submarine by India was an announcement by President Ronald Reagan that he was willing to sanction a 480 million dollar military package to Islamabad; a part of a massive 4.2 billion dollar deal which will include among other sophisticated military material the controversial AWACS.

Reagan's decision was quite surprising too as there were two statutory blocks from the Congress, viz. the Symington and Solarz amendments. These reportedly call for the suspension of assistance by U.S. to any country acquiring nuclear weaponry or smuggled nuclear material from America for weapon manufacture.

Reagan apparently decided to use his waiver against both these amendments insisting that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear explosive device.

According to independent intelligence reports including those in USA already made public, Reagan could perhaps be wrong. Disclosures about facilities in Kahuta plant have hardly been disputed. The recent conviction of a Pakistani national named Arshad Parvez in Philadelphia for attempting to export special material to build a uranium plant also bears testimony to secret Pakistani 'bomb' plan.

Arguably Reagan was convinced that Pakistan would try to stay away from the nuclear option.

India for very obvious reasons has tried to expose Pakistani actions on the nuclear field. Perhaps the main intention was to cover up its own nuclear proliferations.

Compounding the crisis for Islamabad is the latest scandal in Bonn where the authorities have stumbled on an operation where radioactive material capable of making weapons [was] being sent to Pakistan and Libya.

Two days ago however the West German Government said there was no proof to justify the charges.

India evidently suspects Pakistan of gaining nuclear capability in order to challenge its own position as a regional power.

On the other hand Pakistan is becoming increasingly xenophobic of India which it argues is improving its nuclear prowess thus threatening its own security.

Both these theories are correct in their very essence.

But that hardly helps the rest of the countries in South Asia to remain free of an impending nuclear threat.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union seem to overlook the awesome subcontinental nuclear realities. They are evidently preoccupied with their own normalisation process to improve their respective image vis a vis the rest of the world.

Yet, a reversal of the awesome crisis facing South Asia could be achieved only through superpower intervention. Initially if they stop providing the know-how to the protagonists in the Indian subcontinent. [sentence as published]

For instance, the induction of brand new weapons to Pakistan from U.S. and [as published] only prompted India in matching it with a new Soviet built arsenal.

In mid December, New Delhi received its first shipment of the latest Soviet MiG 29 supplied by Moscow at comparatively less cost than what India pays for the French Mirages.

The latest input into the Air Force has improved India's superiority in the sky, thus helping its plans for regional supremacy.

Likewise, the Indian Army is being refurbished to meet new regional challenges. The recent skirmishes with Pakistan in the Himalayan glaciers of Siachen ended with decisive success to New Delhi.

It is in fact a paradox that the very same 14th Sikh Light Infantry that fought in the snow mountains almost faced its Waterloo behind the cadjan curtain of Jaffna.

Though it may sound incredible, certain developments in Sri Lanka have had a tremendous impact on India's regional-power politicking.

Admittedly, it is India's growing fears of U.S. presence in the Indian Ocean that somehow aggravated Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict and incidence of terrorism.

The significance of Trincomalee harbour is now being highlighted in the Indian media as the 'hot potato' of the Indo-Lanka dilemma incorporating the ethnic fiasco.

We have during the past half a decade underscored its significance and also suggested how to avoid the agonising diplomatic calamities that we did encounter in the process.

This newspaper forewarned about the fiasco that would follow the leasing of the Trinco tank farm.

As we predicted India reacted with xenophobia of the so-called "third country factor" and as we can see even today from the disclosures in THE HINDU the bogey of CIA has once again been sounded. This happens to be the basis of the letters of exchange too, which now needs reciprocity through a treaty.

It is also reported that India was influenced in signing the accord because it feared a U.S.-Lankan deal in Trincomalee would endanger its own security. These fears arose mainly due to unnecessary pronouncements by various politicians about giving Trincomalee to U.S. for a quid pro quo to keep Indians out while beating the daylight out of Tamil guerrillas.

New Delhi for some odd reason took these seriously and made its own plans for Sri Lanka. The underlining factor was its own ulterior motive of maintaining the regional superiority without any impediments or inconveniences.

The net result as we experience has only put Sri Lanka in a terrible mess, where its integrity and sovereignty could be under constant threat.

On the other hand India is sitting pretty as the overlord of South Asia with Washington and Moscow giving it a veritable 'carte blanche' to settle regional problems in its own inimitable way.

And we got the IPKF while she sails her Charlie I stepping up the gunboat diplomacy in the Indian Ocean.